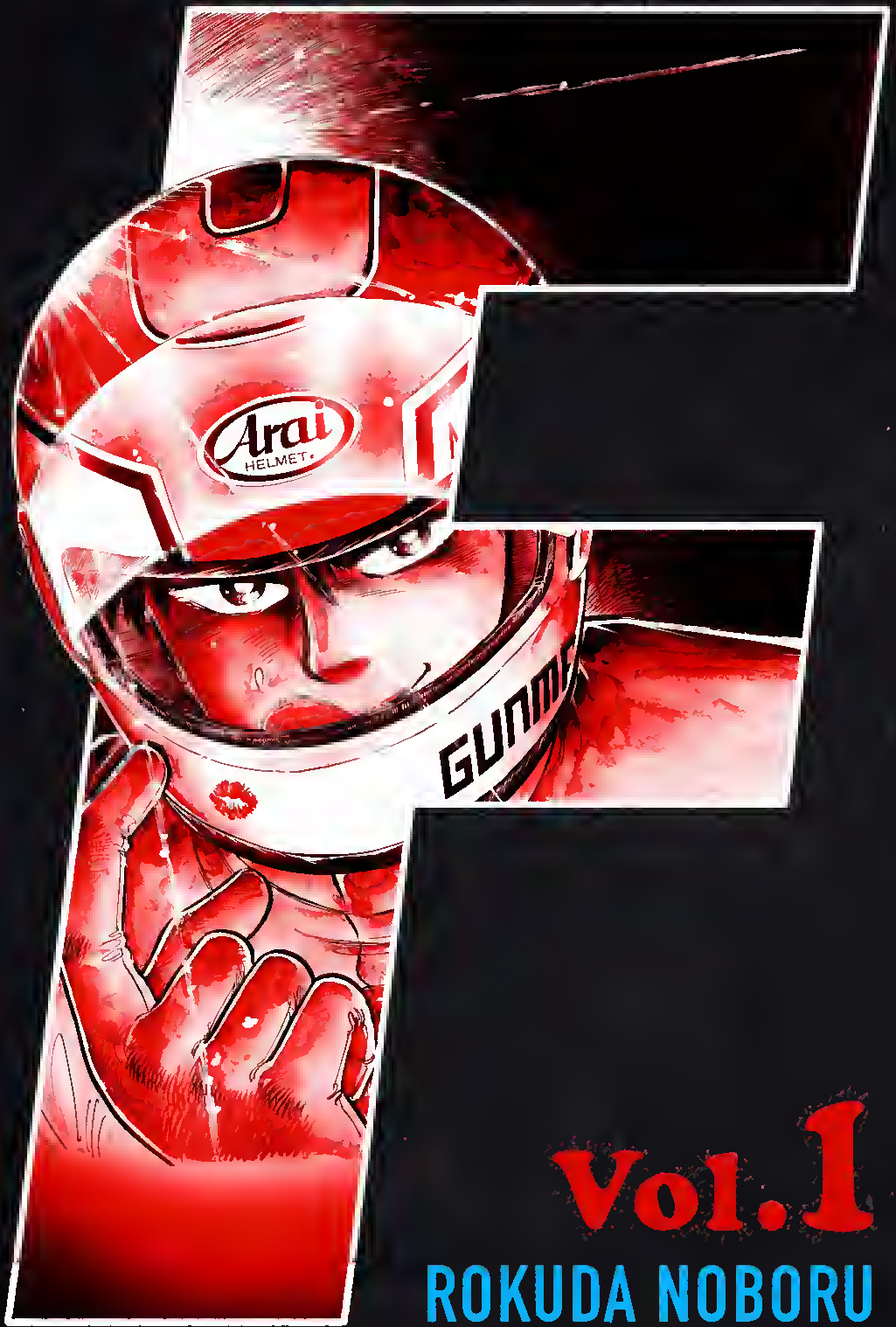


Vol.1

ROKUDA NOBORU

F
Vol.1

F

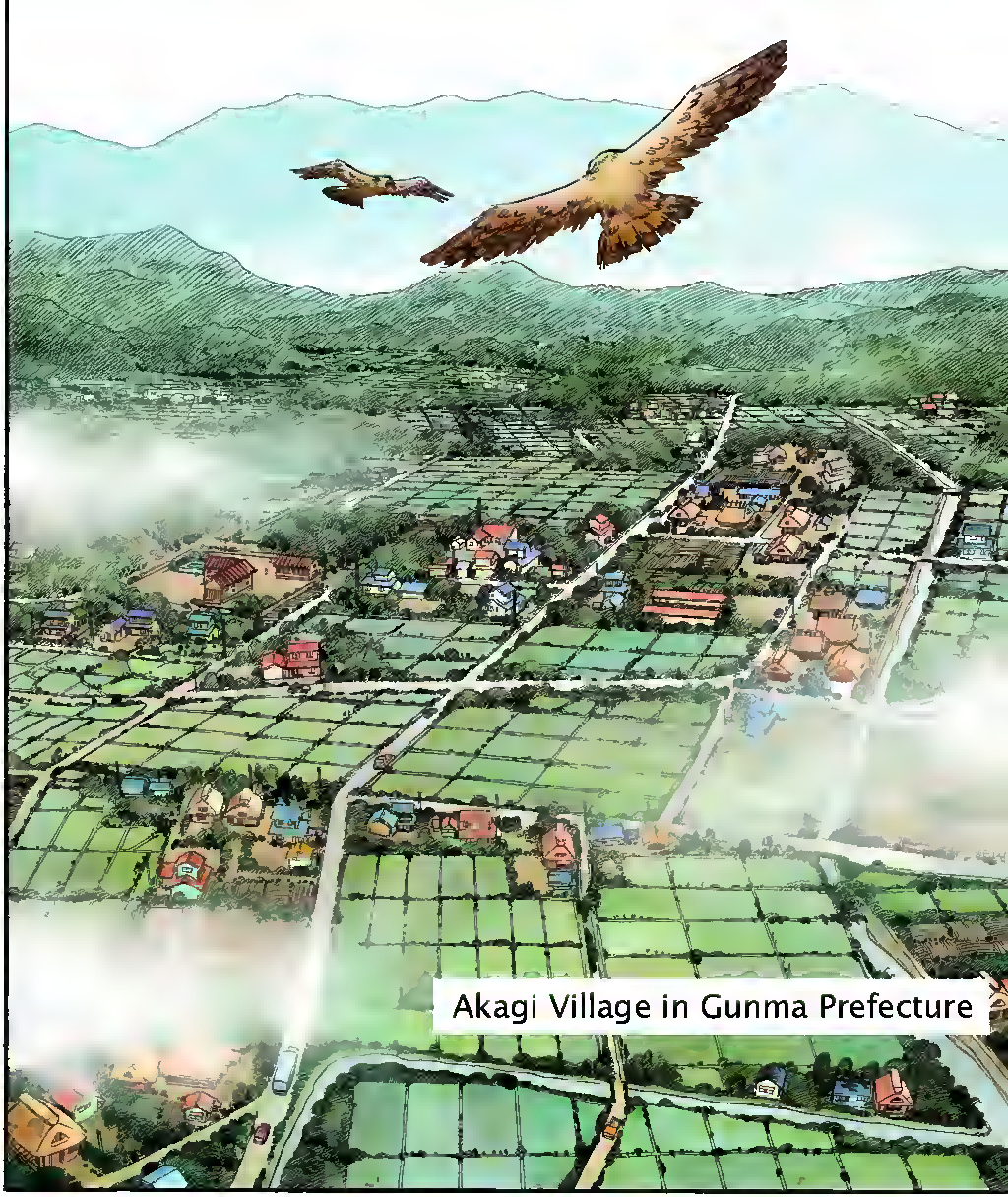
ROKUDA NOBORU

VOL.1

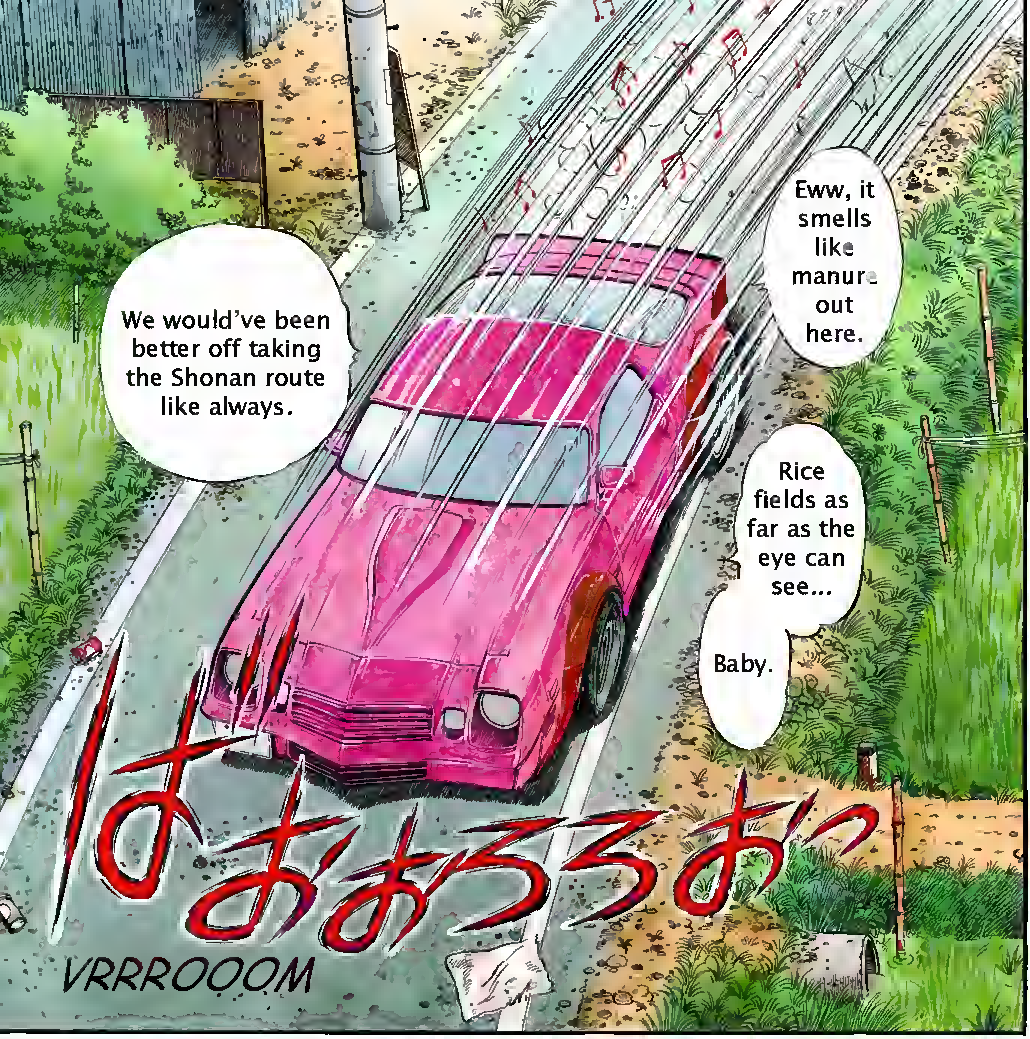
FARMERS

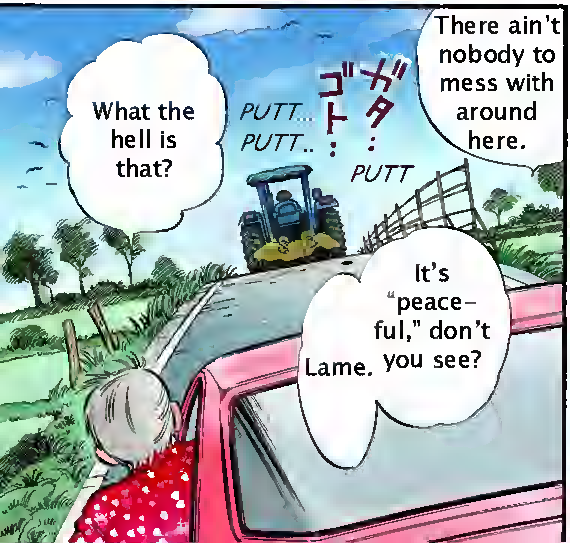
Chapter 1: Farmers
Chapter 2: Fervor
Chapter 3: Friendship
Chapter 4: Fair play
Chapter 5: Family Time
Chapter 6: Pedal to the Metal
Chapter 7: Fall Out
Chapter 8: Full Throttle
Chapter 9: Fish Story
Chapter 10: Freebooting
Chapter 11: Field Trip

Chapter: 1
Farmers

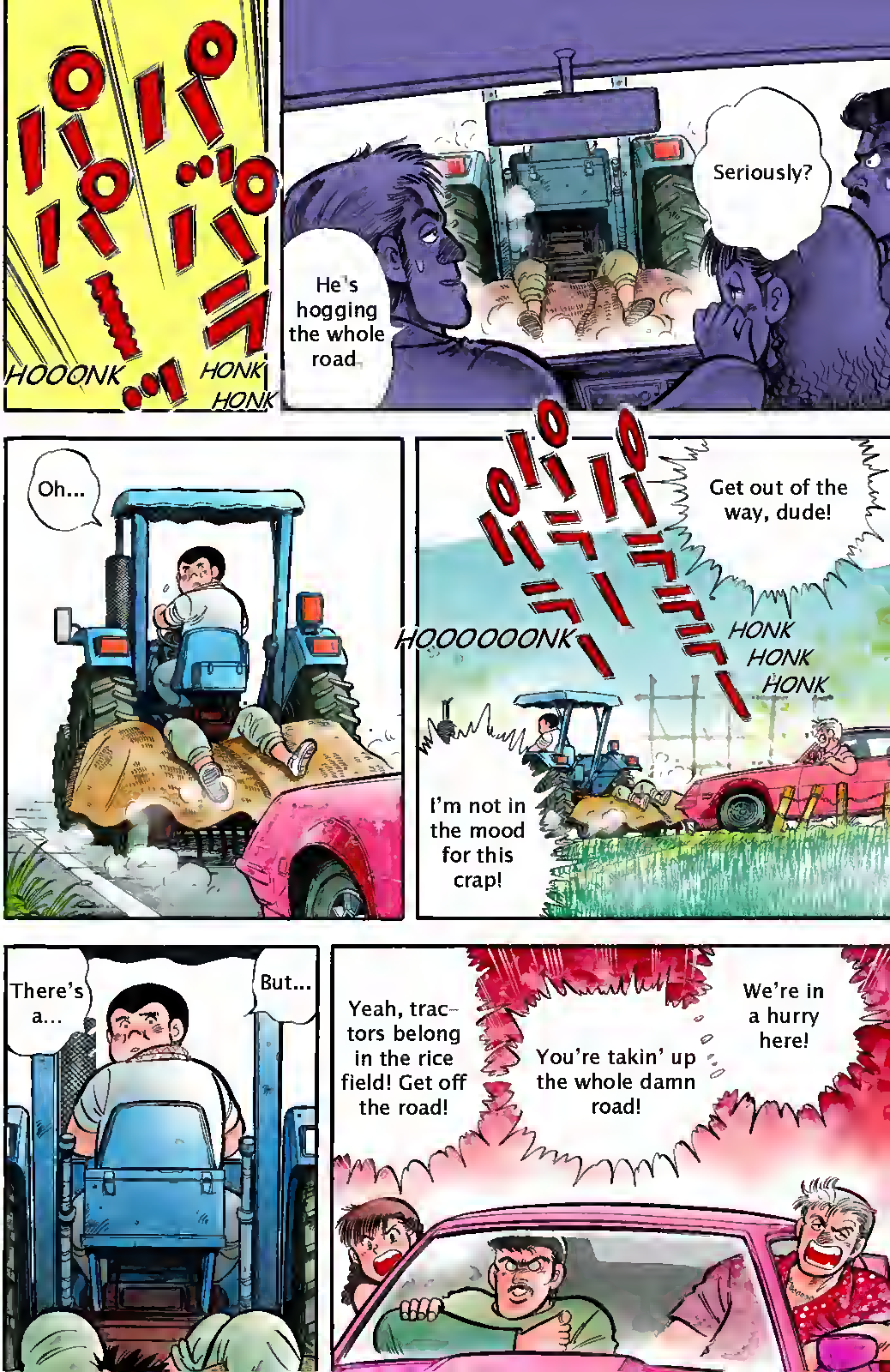

Akagi Village in Gunma Prefecture

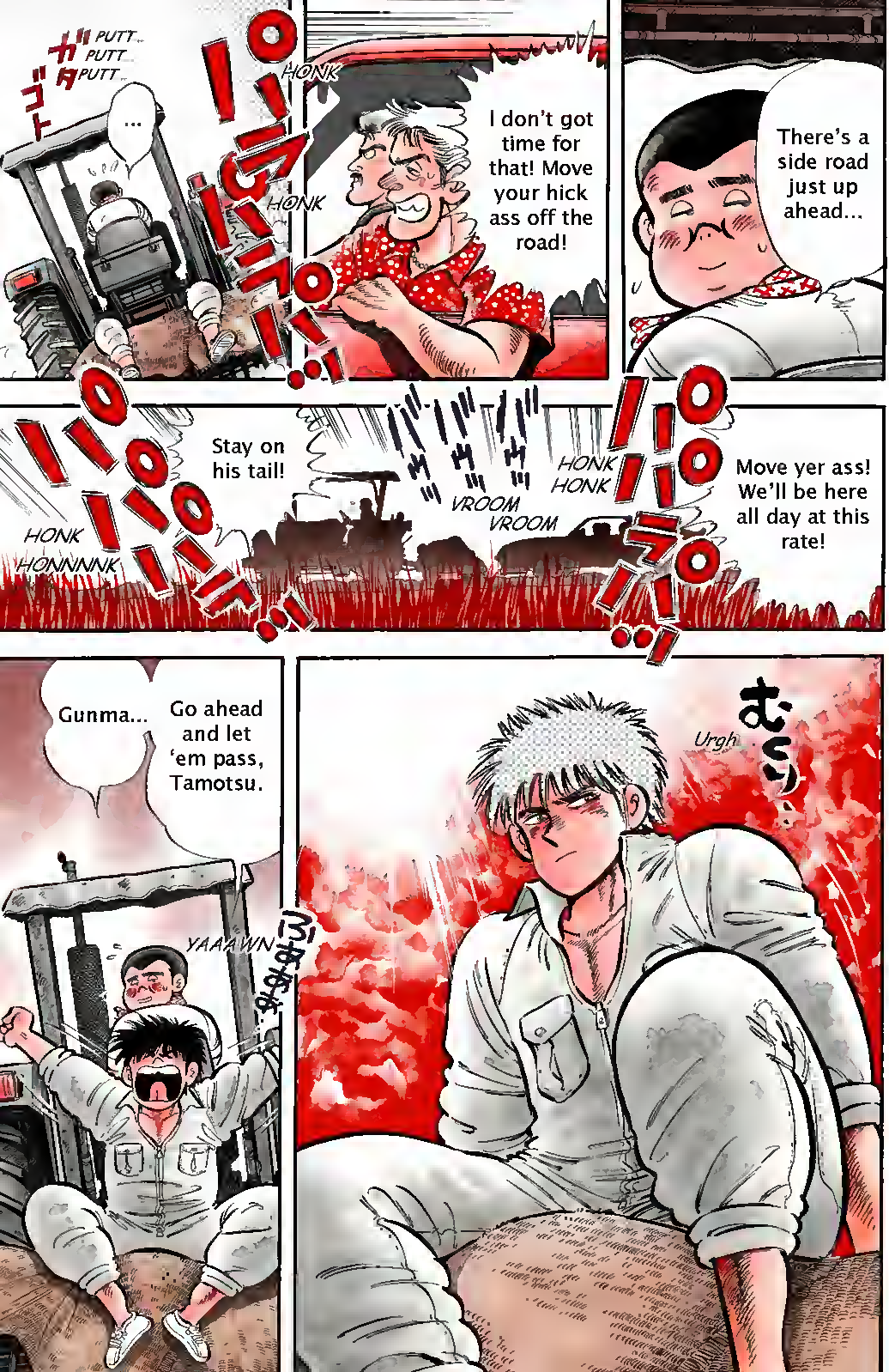
VRRRRRRRRR

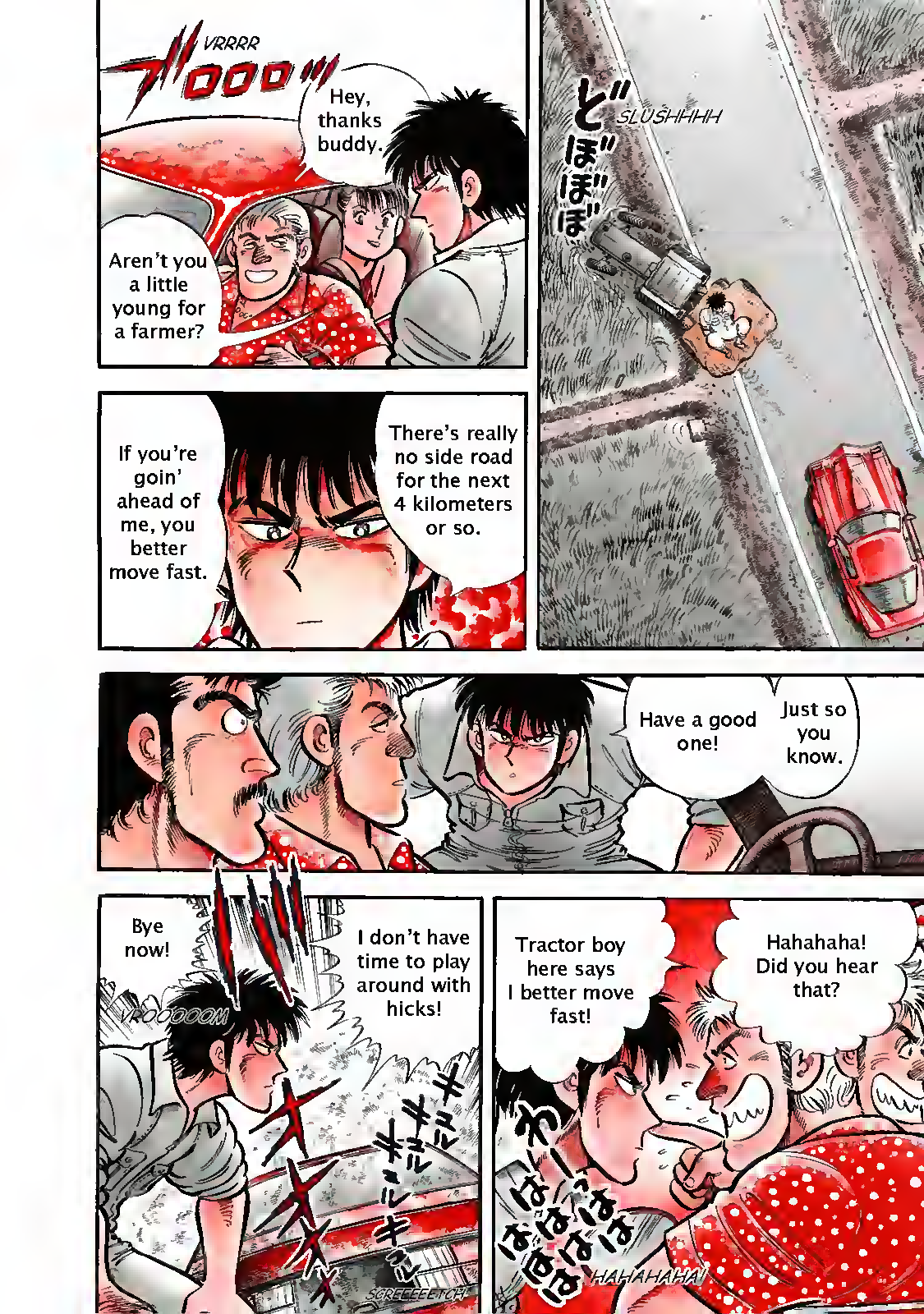

We would've been better off taking the Shonan route like always.
Eww, it smells like manure out here.
Rice fields as far as the eye can see...
Baby.
はおろろお
VRRROOOM


What the hell is that?
PUTT...
PUTT..
ゴトゴタ
PUTT
There ain't nobody to mess with around here.
It's "peace-ful," don't you see?
Lame.

Yoshio's the one who said we oughta cruise the backwoods every now and again.
My bad.

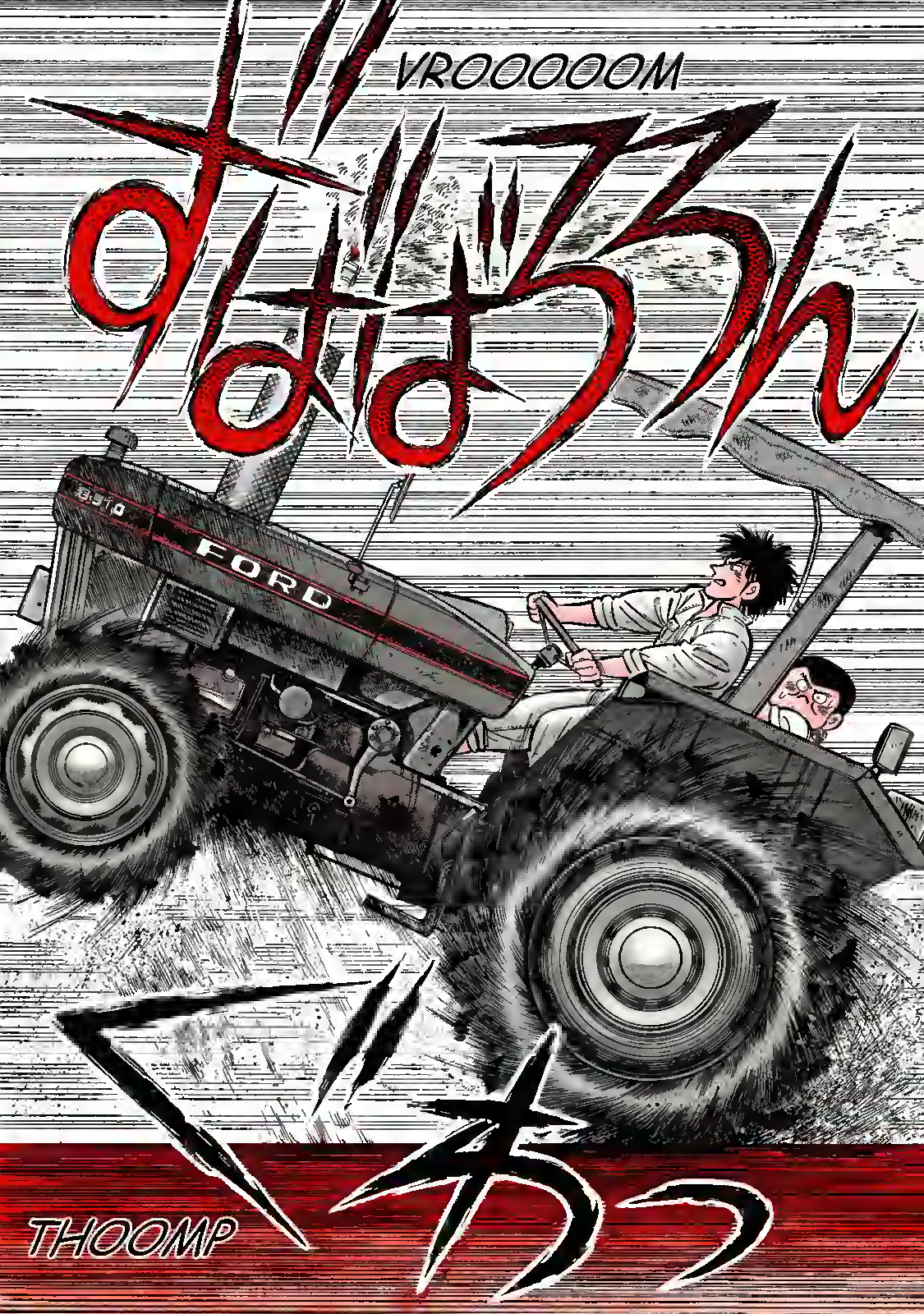

HOOONK
HONK
HONK
He's hogging the whole road
Seriously?
Oh...
HOOOOOONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
Get out of the way, dude!
I'm not in the mood for this crap!
There's a...
But...
Yeah, tractors belong in the rice field! Get off the road!
You're takin' up the whole damn road!
We're in a hurry here!

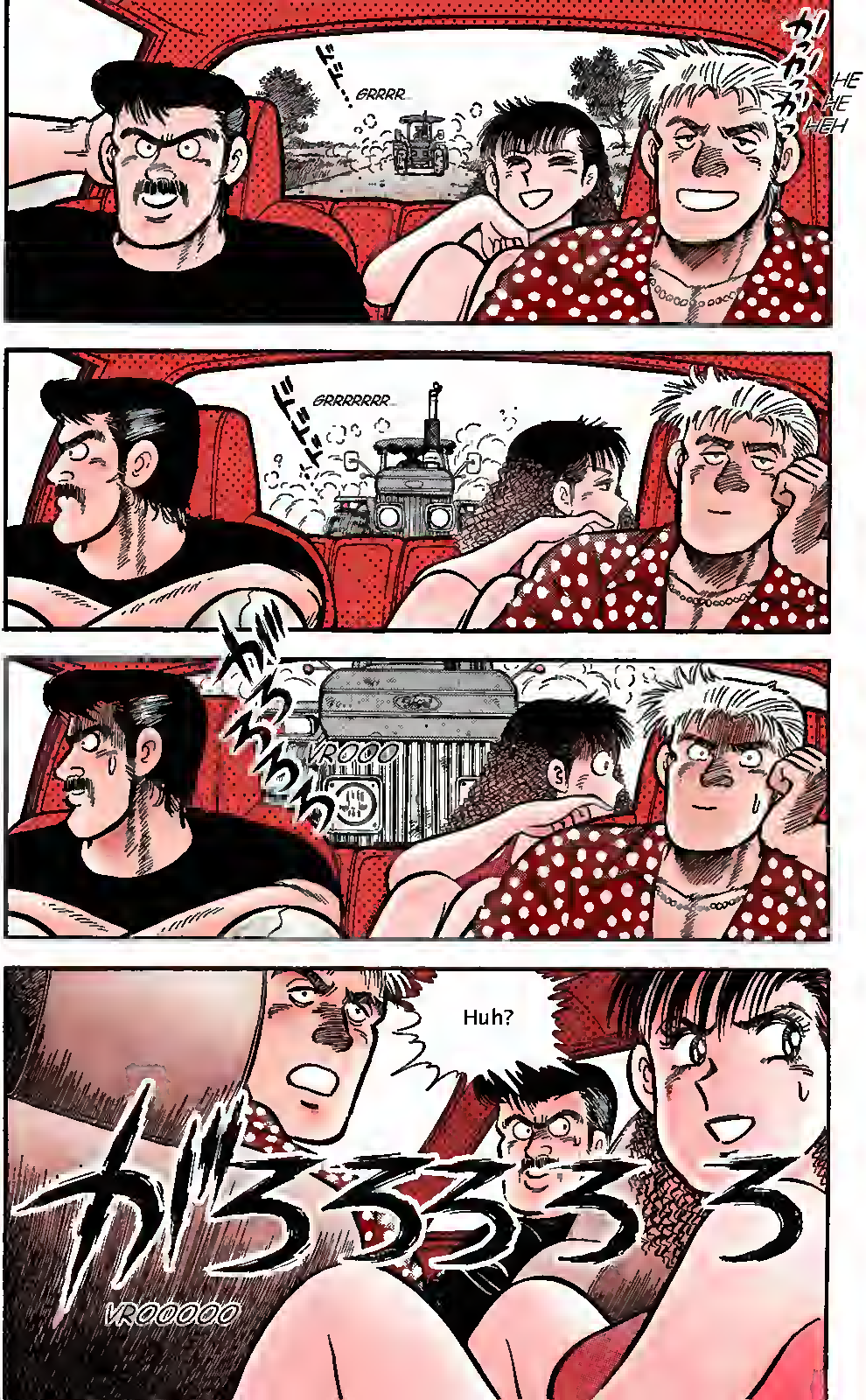

PUTT...
PUTT...
PUTT...
ガタゴト
...
HONK
HONK
I don't got time for that! Move your hick ass off the road!
There's a side road just up ahead...
Stay on his tail!
VROOM
VROOM
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONNNK
Move yer ass! We'll be here all day at this rate!
Gunma...
Go ahead and let 'em pass, Tamotsu.
YAAAWN
Urgh
むぅ

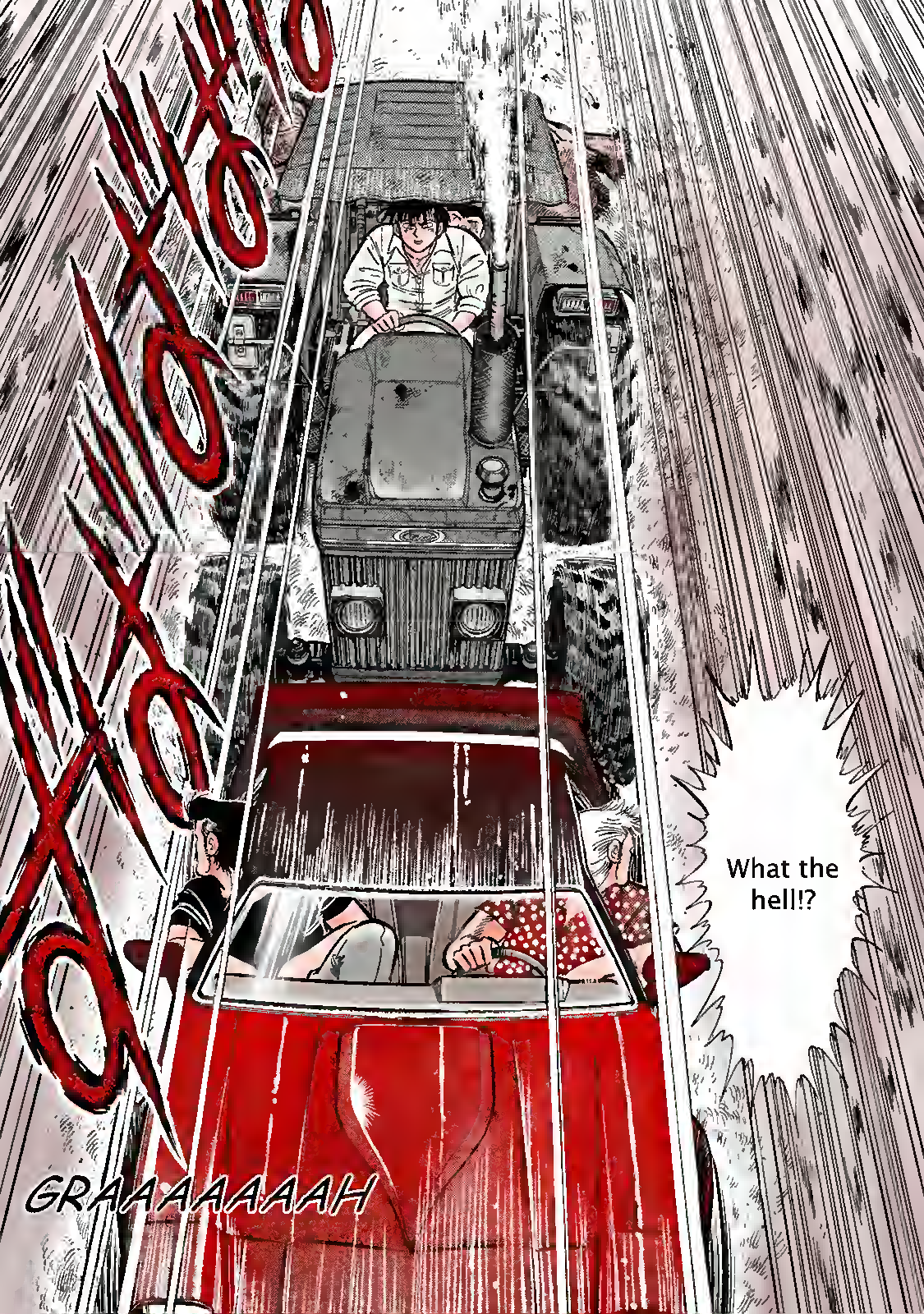

VRRRR
Hey, thanks buddy.
Aren't you a little young for a farmer?
SLUSHHHH
If you're goin' ahead of me, you better move fast.
There's really no side road for the next 4 kilometers or so.
Have a good one!
Just so you know.
Bye now!
I don't have time to play around with hicks!
VROOOOM
SCREEEEETCH
Tractor boy here says I better move fast!
Hahahaha! Did you hear that?
HAHAHAHA

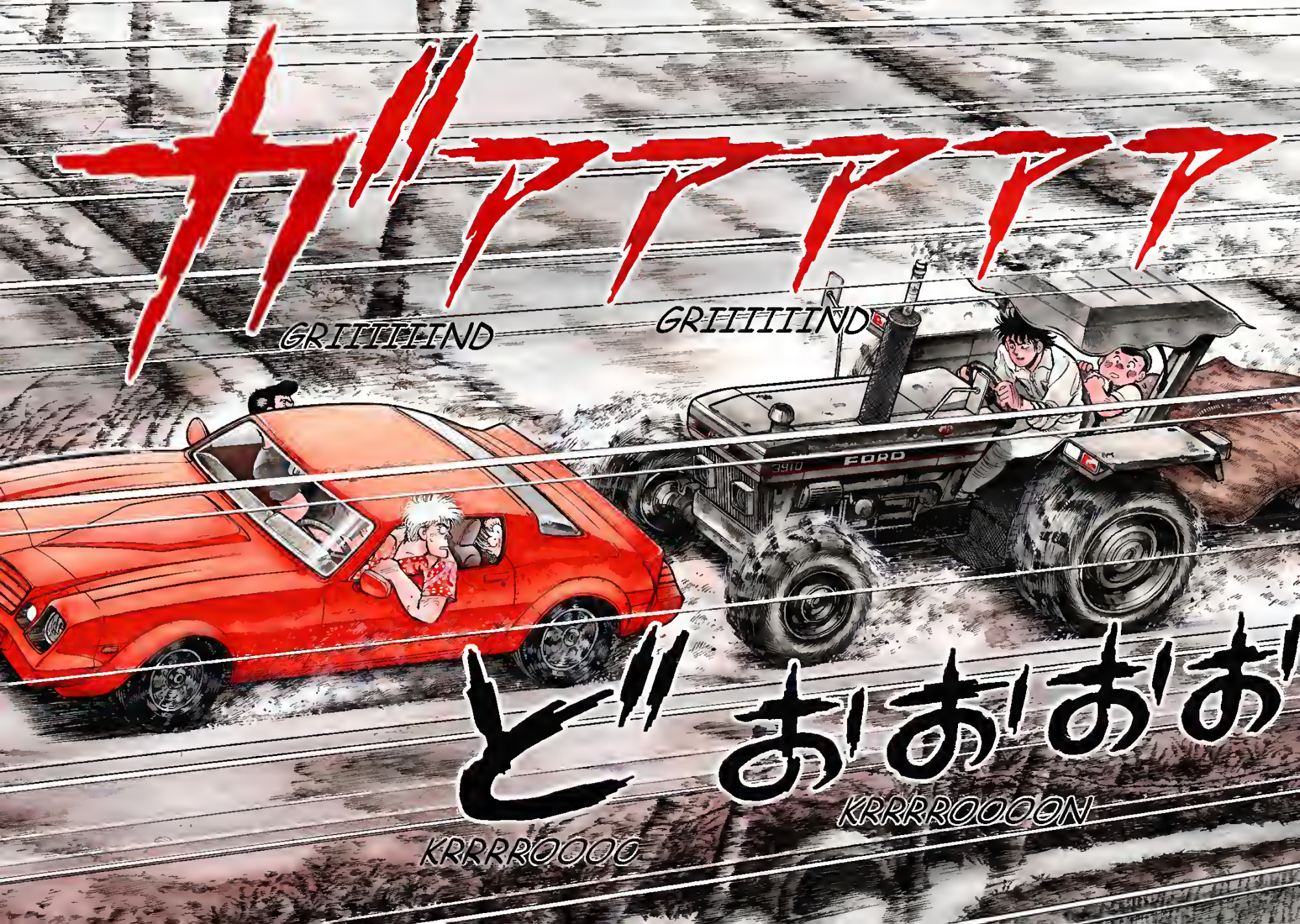
ドキ"
GULP
Let me drive.
VROOOM
...
Okay ...
I really pity those guys.
But...
I'm taking over!
Hold on tight, Tamotsu.
I am already ...
KACHUNG!
...is begging for a lesson.
But anyone who's got the nerve to pass in front of me...

SHUMP
YEEHAW!
PUTT PUTT
PUTT PUTT
SCREEEEETCH
VOHHHGHH


VROOOOOM
FORD
THOOMP


ブブ…
GRRRR
カ!カカッカッ
HE HE HEH
ブブブブ
GRRRRRRR
カルルルル
VROOO
Huh?
カルルルル
VROOOOO


What the hell!?
GRAAAAAAAH

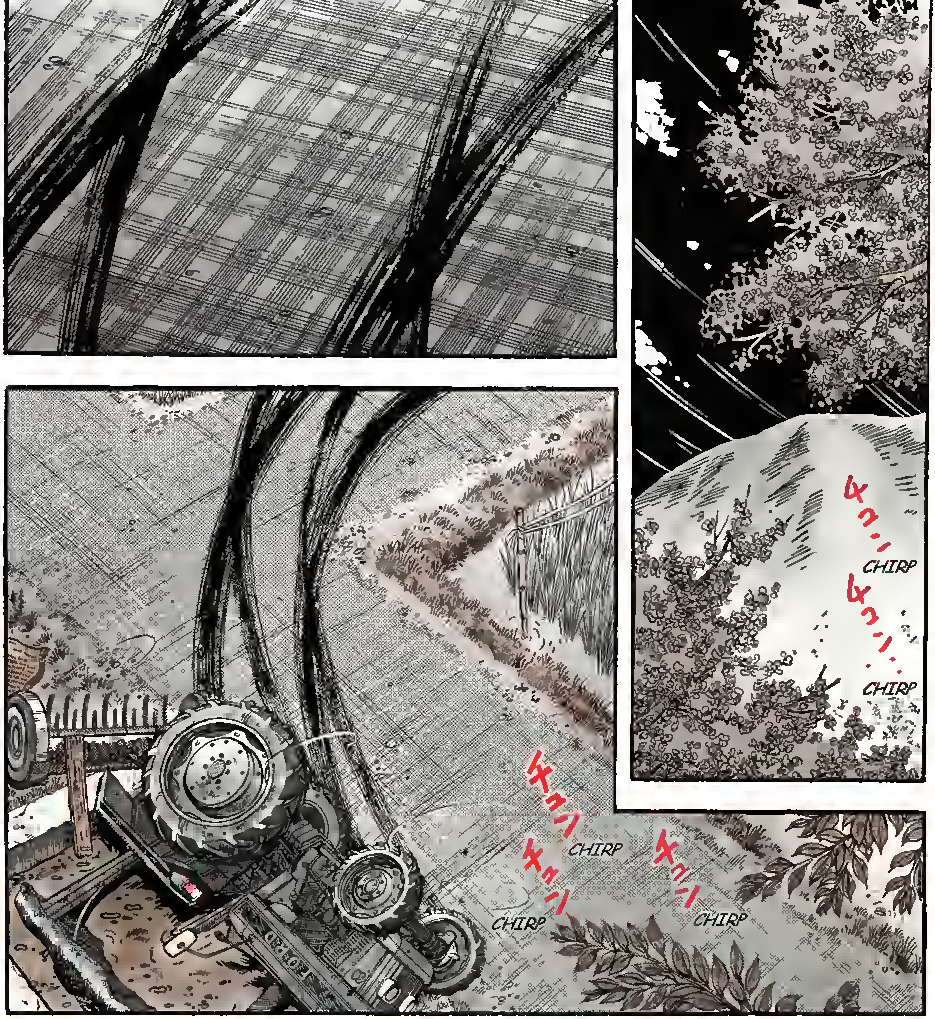

カアアアア
GRIIIIIIND
GRIIIIIIND
FORD
とおおおお
KRRRROOOOO
KRRRROOOON

VROM
Y–
Yeah...
Oh...
Huh?
What are you doing, Yoshio? Lose this jerk!
VRUUUM
GRAAAAH
FORD
Think you can outrun me, huh?
Heh!
ZOOOOOM
Right under the steering wheel. On the left side.
The lever!
Where is it, Ta–motsu?

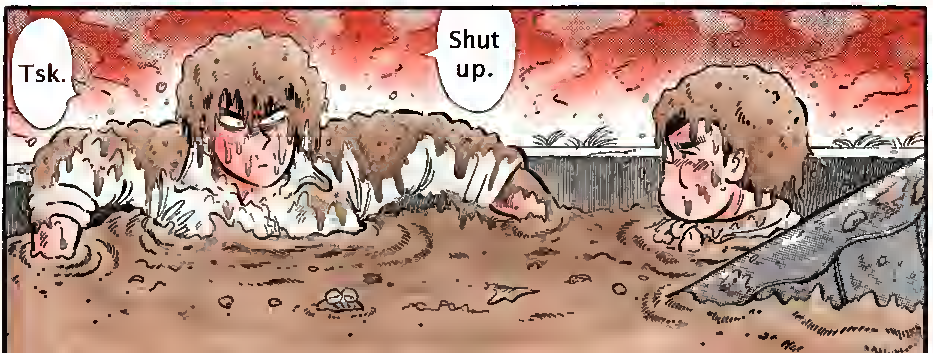
Check this out, suckers.
KREE
Um... be careful, okay? Lug tires don't have a lot of traction.
Aha. There's my baby.
!?
Hey! What is that?
KACHUNNG
This can't be happening.
That thing's been...
An intake?
3910
SUPER TUNED!
GRAAAAAAAAN
FORD

BRAAAAAAAH
ブァアアアア
FORD
No one gets in front of me.
Didn't I tell you...?
H-HELLLLP!!!
We're gonna die!
ドガァアアアア
ZOOOOOOM
Whatever! Just turn! Now!
Yoshio! A side road!
We can't make it at this speed!

GRAAAAAAAH
KYAH
Momma!
BASHOOM
Oh...
What was that all about?
Man ...
...
This sucks!
Cough ...
Phew ...
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT...
HA HA HA HA HA!


チュンチュン
CHIRP
チュンチュン…
CHIRP
チュンチュン
CHIRP
チュンチュン
CHIRP
チュンチュン
CHIRP

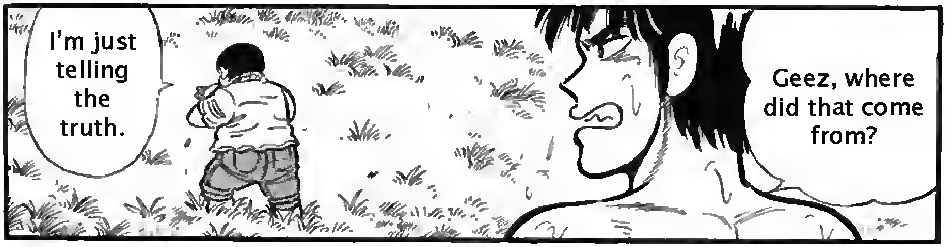
But you just had to go and...
They're not designed for high speeds.
あ…
あ…
SLOSH!!
ぷ…
ぷ…
PLOOP
I told you these tires don't have any traction.


Tsk.
Shut up.

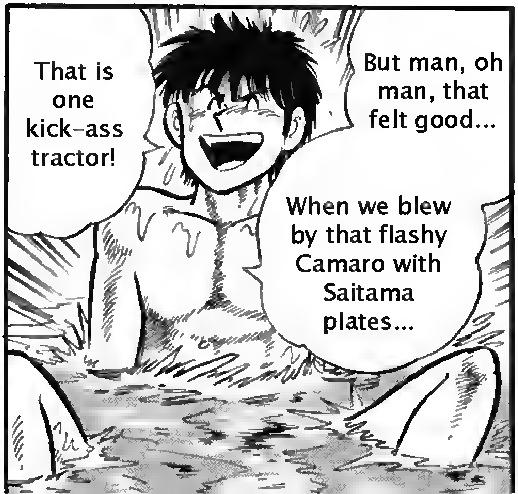
CHIRP CHIRP
ちちち
I got most of it off.
Come on, dude. Let's go to the bathhouse. You still smell like manure.

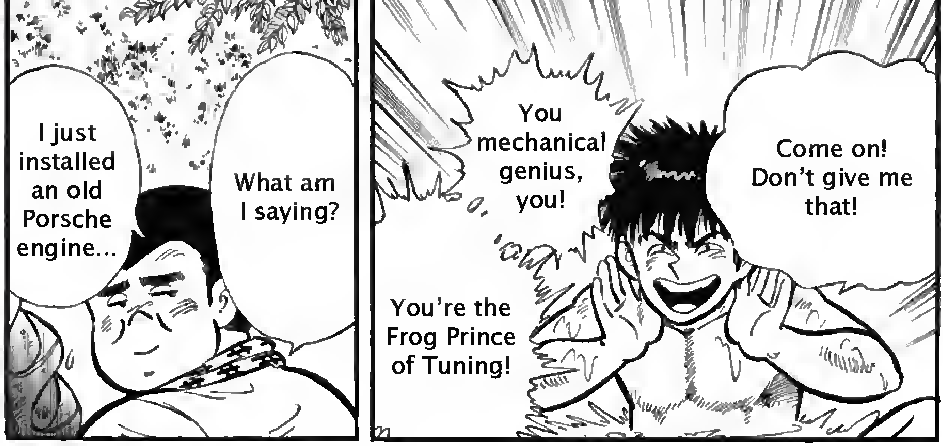
I'm goin' home.
RINNG
ジャー
POST
ポスッ
GARGLE
GARGLE
ガガガ
うう

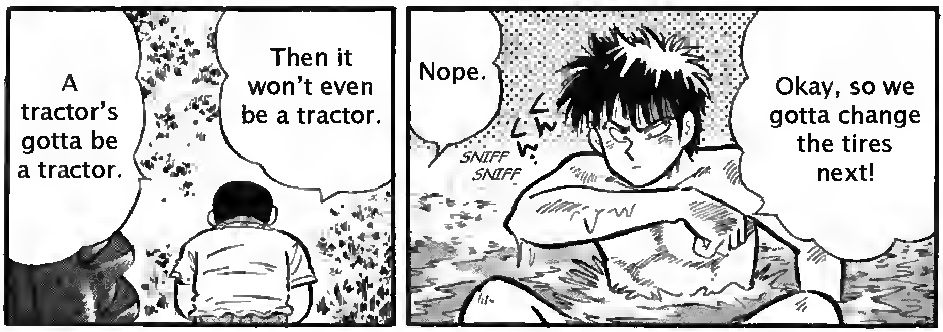
Not all of us are filthy rich like you, ya know. We don't got time to play around.
Besides, I've gotta go check the mushrooms now, and do some other stuff.


I'm just telling the truth.
Geez, where did that come from?

All it can do is go straight, so there's no point, even if it goes fast!
Not really.
It's just a toy.


That is one kick-ass tractor!
But man, oh man, that felt good...
When we blew by that flashy Camaro with Saitama plates...

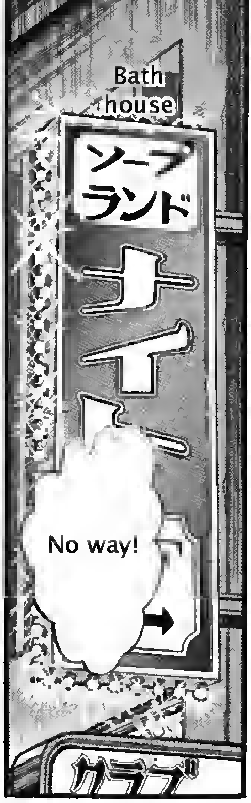

I just installed an old Porsche engine...
What am I saying?
You mechanical genius, you!
You're the Frog Prince of Tuning!
Come on! Don't give me that!

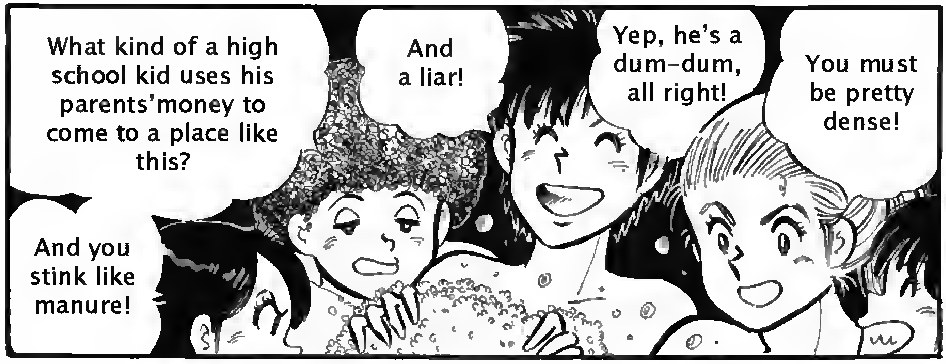

A tractor's gotta be a tractor.
Then it won't even be a tractor.
Nope.
SNIFF SNIFF
Okay, so we gotta change the tires next!

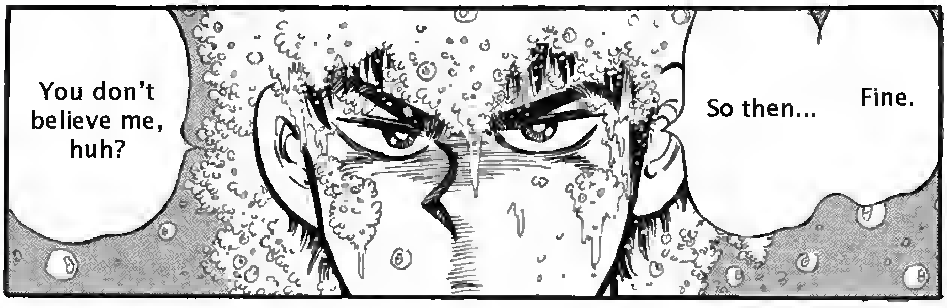
Party pooper!
Man...
SPLASH
Let's go!
Come on, dude! The bathhouse is waiting!

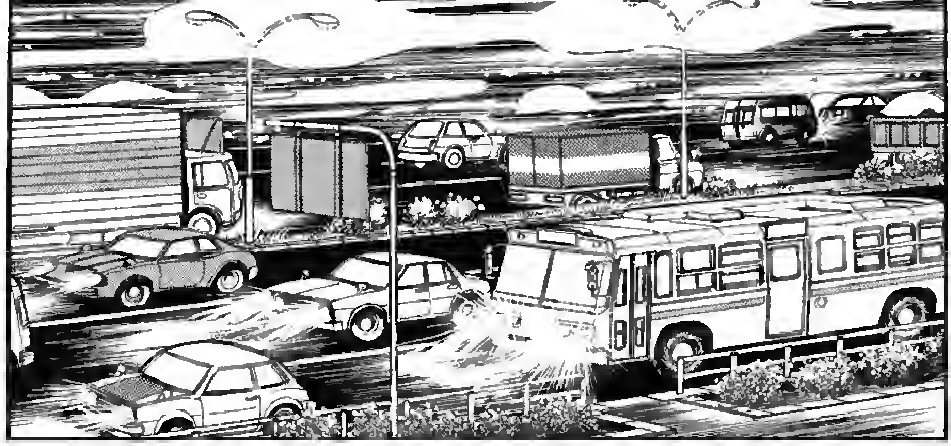
Near Maebashi Station
Nakaoka, I'm really sorry about this, man.
I realize you lent me the car, and by tomorrow I'll definitely have it...
The ex- haust?
Huh?
What?
This is pretty embarrassing, but it was a tractor.
Actually, no. It wasn't black.
That's what I thought. Someone was messin' with you.
I saw flames spitting out of the muffler.
If the exhaust wasn't black, and you saw flames coming out, it must've had a Porsche or BMW engine installed.
Your average tractor has a diesel engine, and there's no way in hell it could outrun my Camaro.
By some wannabe country kid...
Sounds to me like you fellas got punked!
Dam- mit.

You are so full of it.
You said it, girl.
A tractor can't outrun a sports car. It just doesn't happen.
Whatever happened, you smell awful.


Bath house
ソープランド
ナイト
No way!
カラオケ


What kind of a high school kid uses his parents'money to come to a place like this?
And a liar!
Yep, he's a dum-dum, all right!
You must be pretty dense!
And you stink like manure!

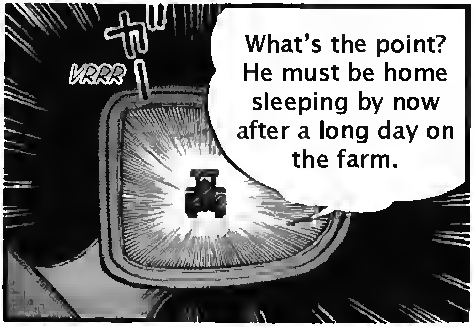

You don't believe me, huh?
So then...
Fine.

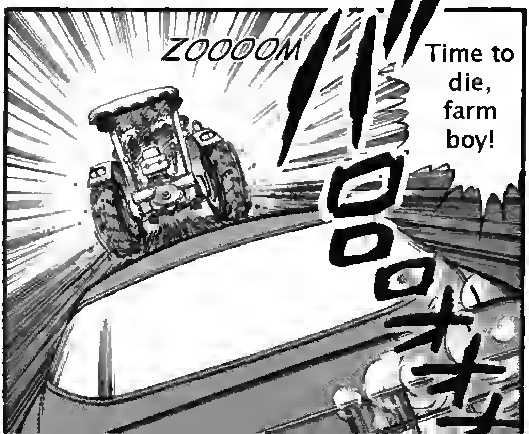


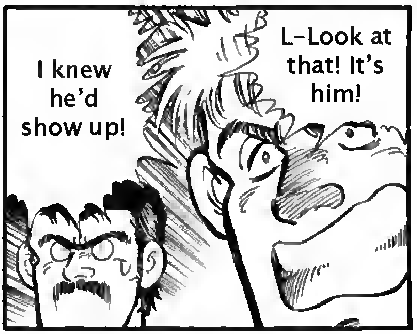
No way! I won't stop till I find him!
Hicks will be hicks. Let's get home, already.

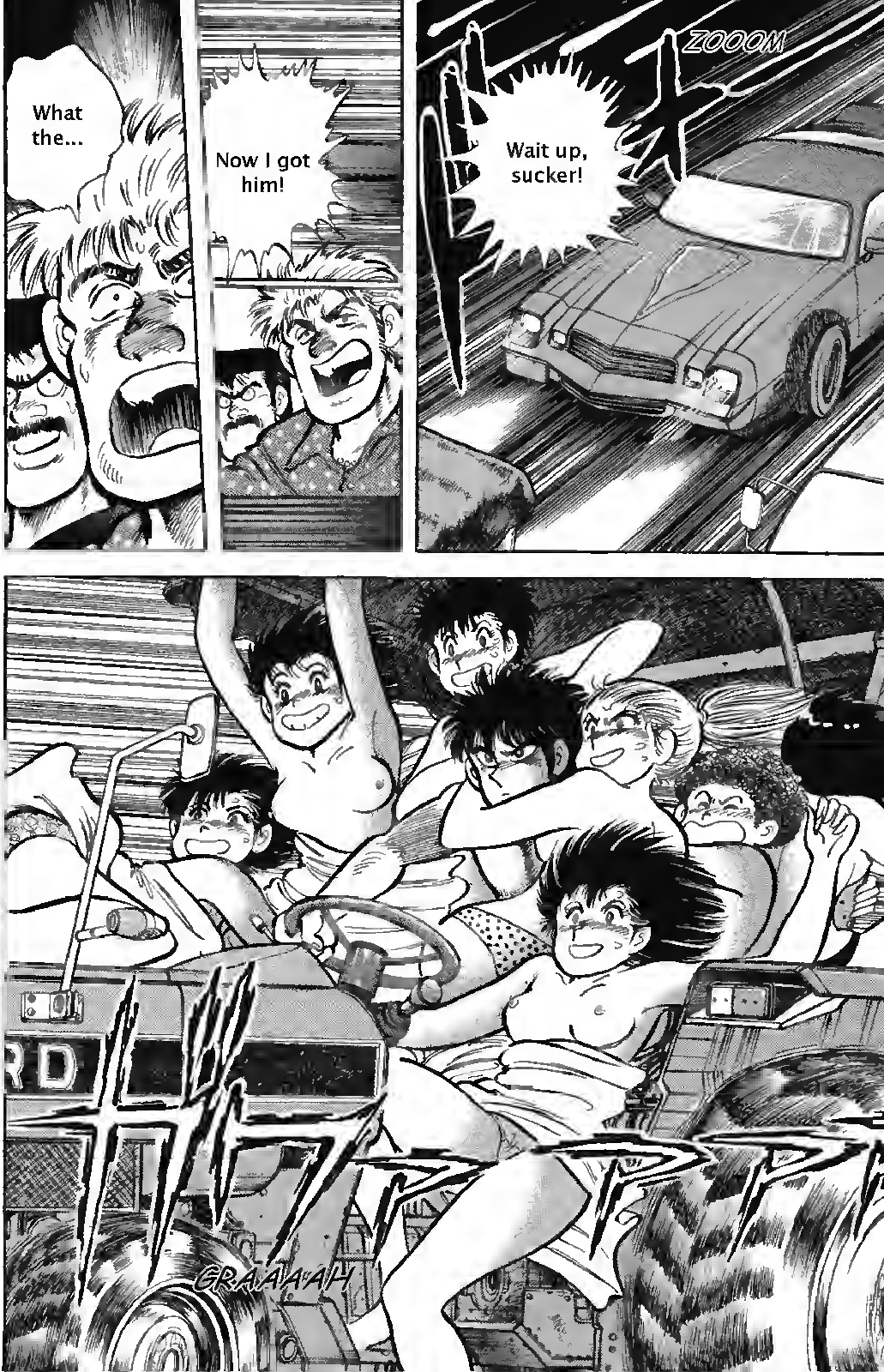
Forget about it, Yoshio.
Damn that little punk! I'll make him pay for this.

GRAAH
!?

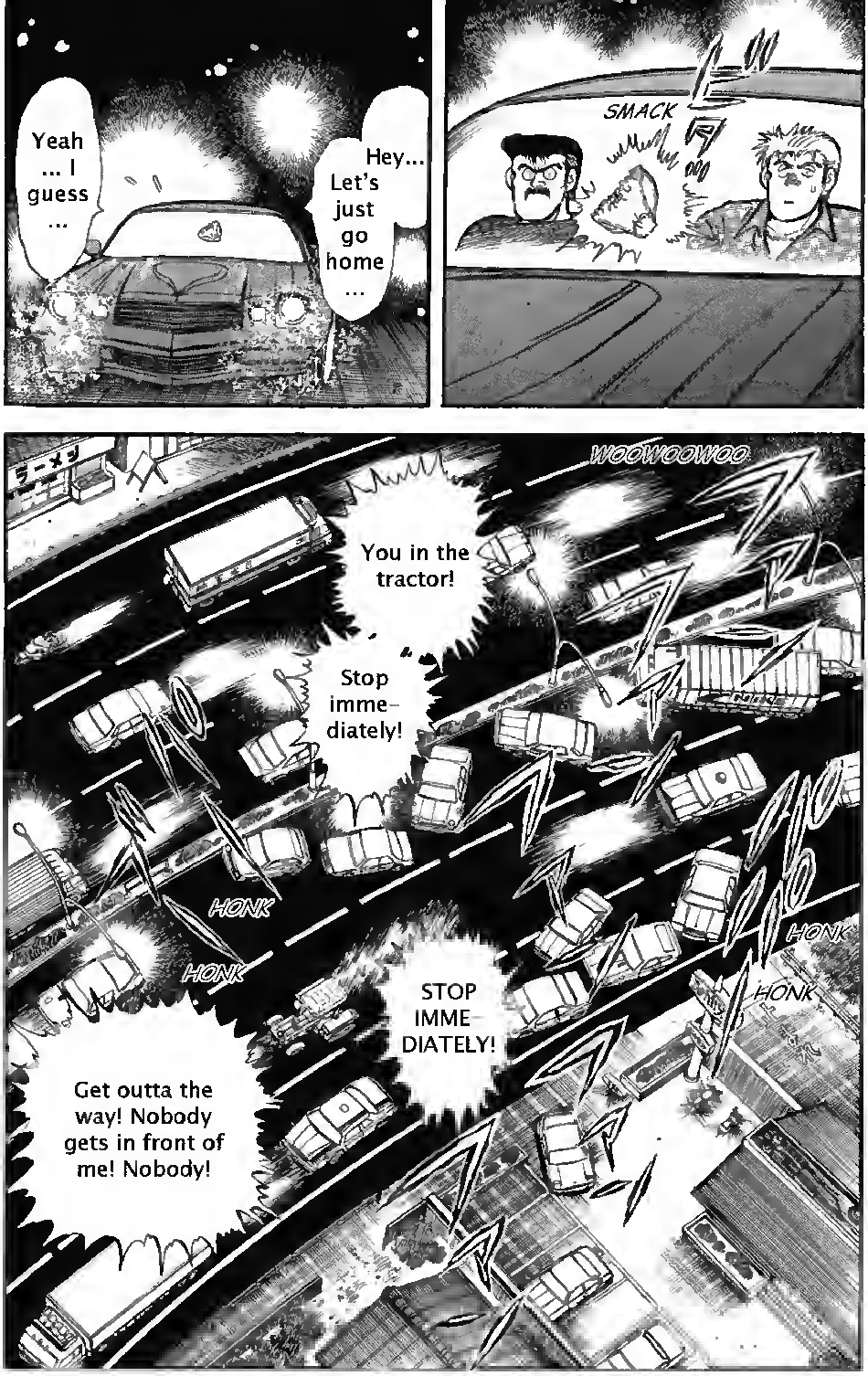

VRRR
What's the point? He must be home sleeping by now after a long day on the farm.


ZOOOOM
Time to die, farm boy!


I knew he'd show up!
L-Look at that! It's him!


What the...
Now I got him!
ZOOOM
Wait up, sucker!
GR.A.A.A.AH

This is... crazy...
TUG
Turbo charger!
SCWING
BUTT
VROOOM


Yeah ... I guess ...
Hey... Let's just go home ...
SMACK
WOOWOOWOO
You in the tractor!
Stop imme-diately!
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
STOP IMME-DIATELY!
Get outta the way! Nobody gets in front of me! Nobody!

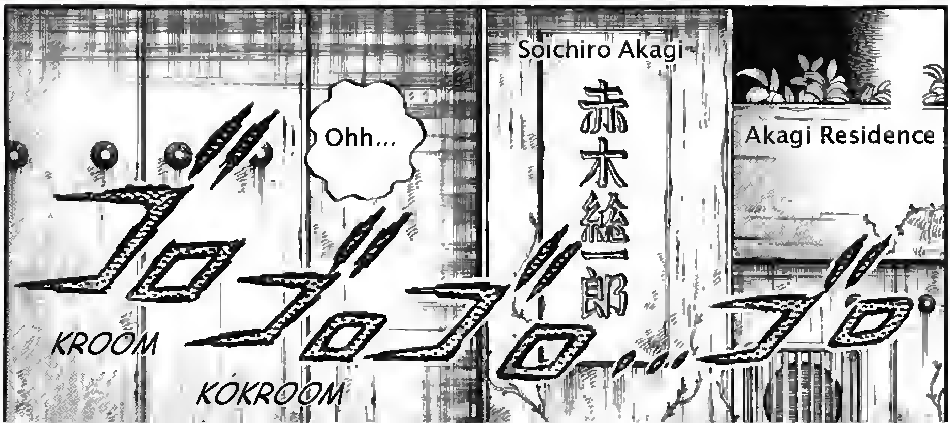
F

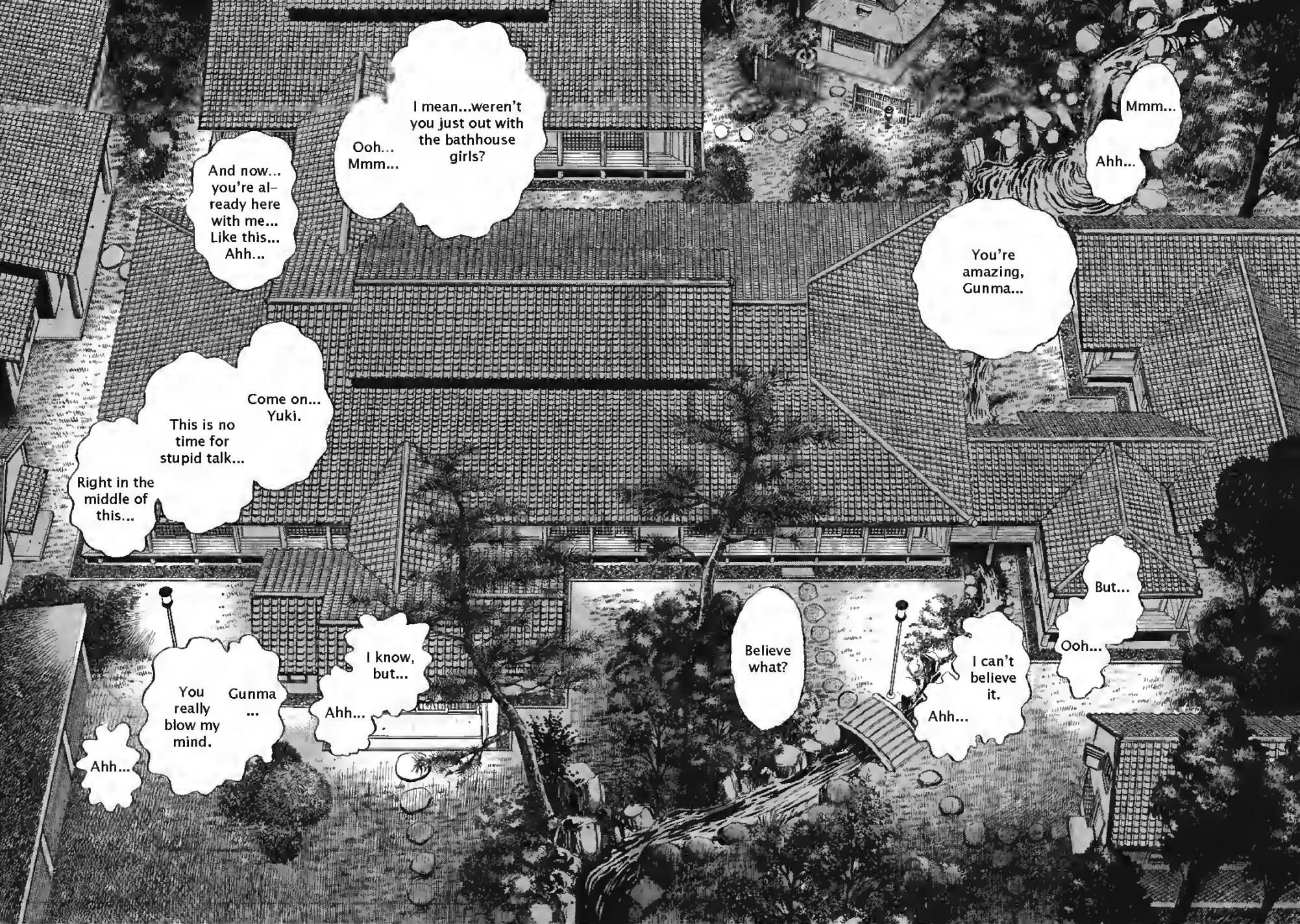
VOL.1

Chapter 2: Fervor

KOKROOOM
KROOOM

KAKROOM


Soichiro Akagi
赤木総一郎
Akagi Residence
Ohh...
KROOM
KOKROOM


Mmm...
Ahh...
I mean...weren't you just out with the bathhouse girls?
Ooh... Mmm...
And now... you're already here with me... Like this... Ahh...
You're amazing, Gunma...
Come on... Yuki.
This is no time for stupid talk...
Right in the middle of this...
But...
Ooh...
Believe what?
I can't believe it.
Ahh...
I know, but...
Ahh...
You really blow my mind.
Gunma...
Ahh...

KAKROOM
TRK
Mind your step, sir. The ground is a bit muddy.
POKE
I'm terribly sorry, sir.
Never walk in front of me, you idiot!
FLASH

Welcome home.

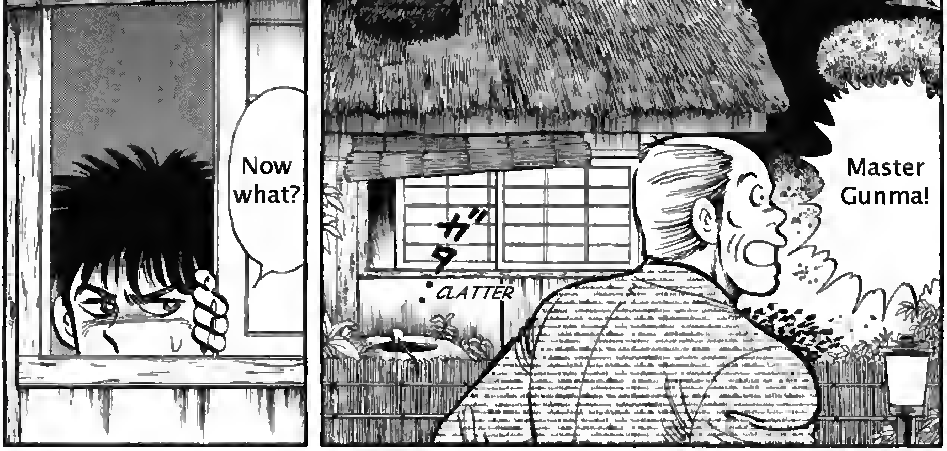
The police chief came by.

...

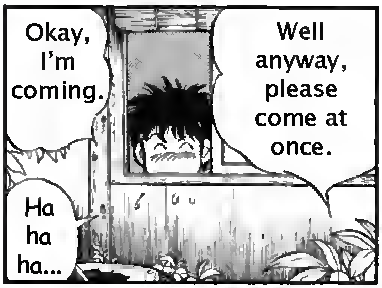
Hm.

Apparently damaging a lot of cars and property in the process.
Gunma was in a bit of a... situation.
He was driving recklessly on a tractor with some prostitutes

I guess...
There's something strange and unpredictable about him. So different than Shoma and Yuma.
That boy really bothers me.
Maybe I feel different about Shoma and Yuma because I gave birth to them.
Hmph
I just can't deal with him.
Anyway...
Master Gunma!
Now.
Bring Gunma in here.


Now what?
Master Gunma!
CLATTER

Huh?
What are you doing in there?
Oh! Master wishes to see you, sir!


Okay, I'm coming.
Well anyway, please come at once.
Ha ha ha...

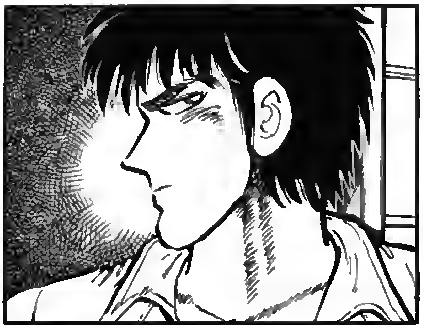
ゴロゴロ...
KAKROOM

What else would I be doing in the tea house?
Just makin' a little hot... tea, that's all.

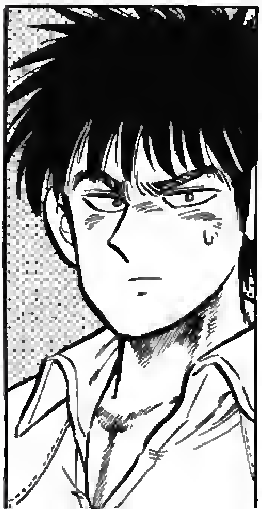
ふぁあ
YAWN
TAK
TAK
You're getting an awful lot of tail for a high school kid.
TAK
And I can't help noticing how it all ends up on my tab.
Reminds me of your mother Shizue, always after money for something.
TAK
Maybe you're right.
Momma always had money problems.
SWIFF
GYOOP

Even though you're the son of a whore, you're still my flesh and blood, which is why I want to teach you how to be a man.
I didn't take you in so you could waste your life away on idle pleasures.

...I suggest you clean up your act a little.
If you don't want to disappoint me...
TAK



TAK



Hmm ...

Like you said, I'm your flesh and blood after all.
Maybe you're the reason I act like this.

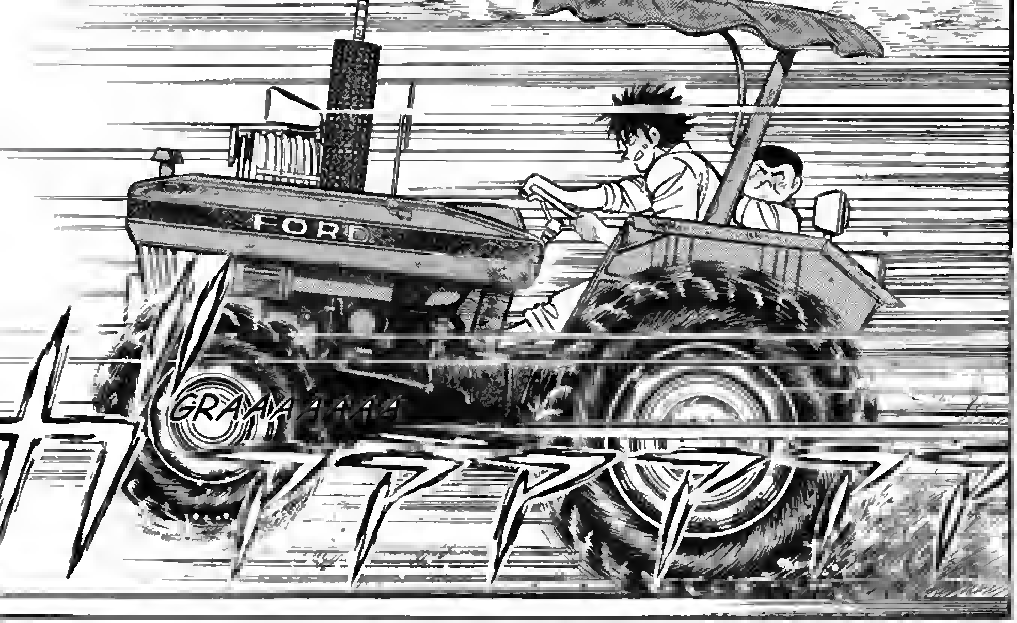
Get Yuki in here.
My flesh and blood...
CLICK
?
Yes, sir.
Come in, Yuki.
Screw Yuki right here in front of me, Gunma!
SHOOP

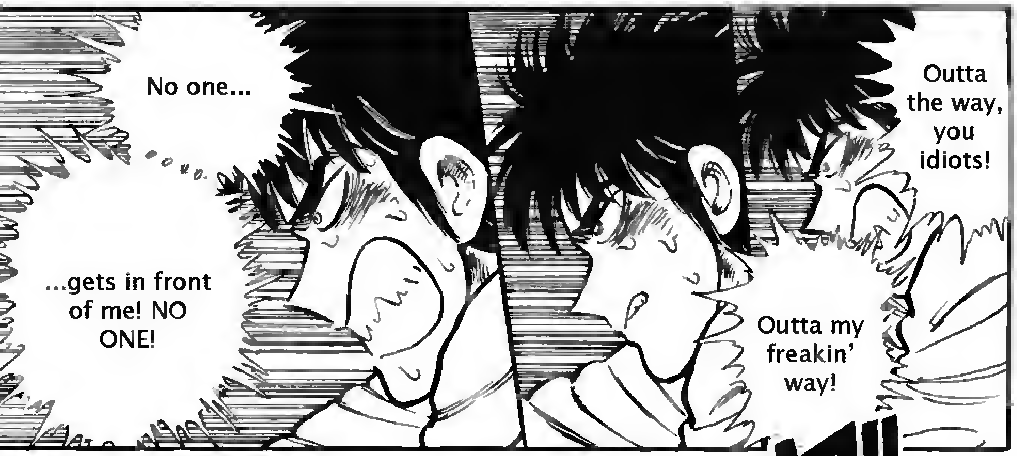
What's the matter?
Well?
FLASH
?
!?
A real man has to be ready to perform with a woman any place, any time.
SWISH
Heh heh... So you can't "perform" like that, hm?
KROOOM
You can't expect me to... perform like that right in front of you!
I can't believe you just said that!
You crazy !?
Or have you just gone limp and you can't get it up anymore? Huh!?
KAROOM
What's wrong, Gunma? I thought you had my blood running through your veins.
YANK
...

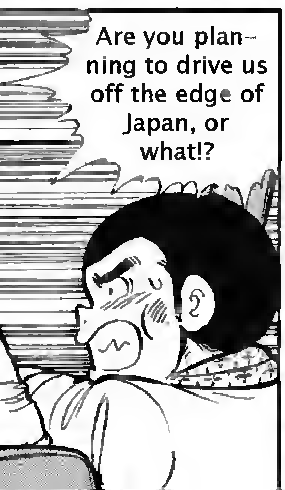
Gasp ...
Take a good, long look Gunma! Don't you dare look away till I'm done!
KRACKLE
If you can't handle it, watch how a real man performs.
ずん!!
BOING
Stop it! That's enough, you bastard!
Master I...! Please don't...!
RRRRTTTP
Urgh...

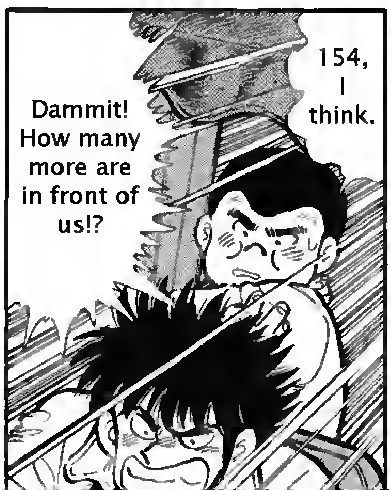
BAM
Don't you EVER stand before me you fool!
THUNK
Eeek! Gunma...

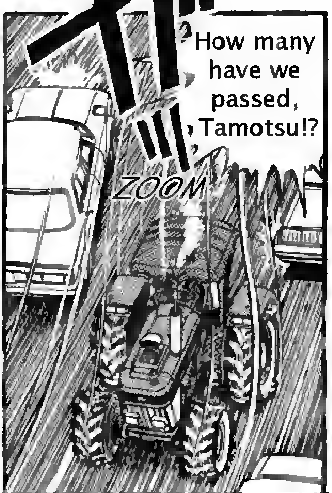
My flesh and blood... huh? You're nothing but a cheap imitation. Just looking at you makes me sick!
Stupid kid.
SLAM
Gunma!
Someone... Please help...
GRAAAAAAA


FORD
GRAAA
HYPER

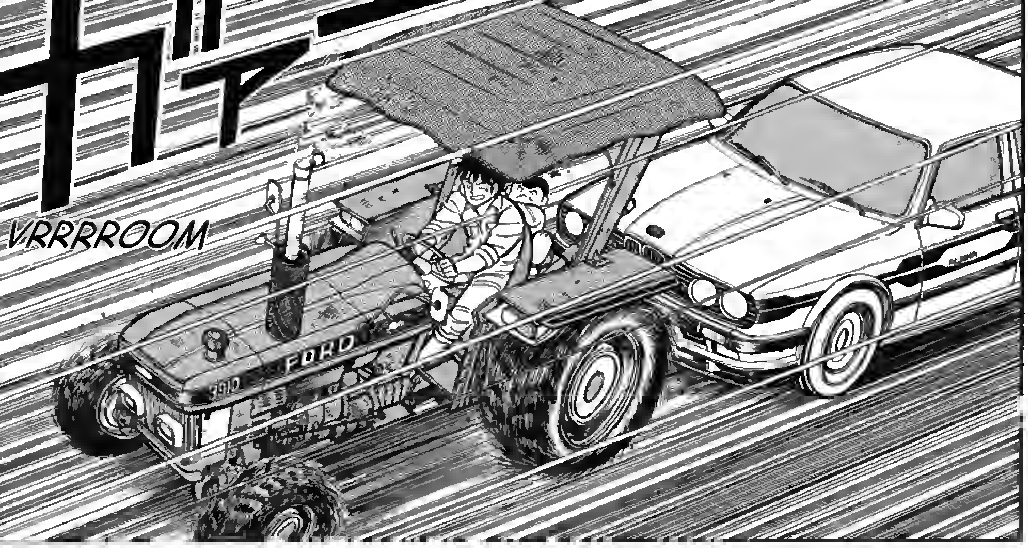

No one...
...gets in front of me! NO ONE!
Outta the way, you idiots!
Outta my freakin' way!


Are you planning to drive us off the edge of Japan, or what!?

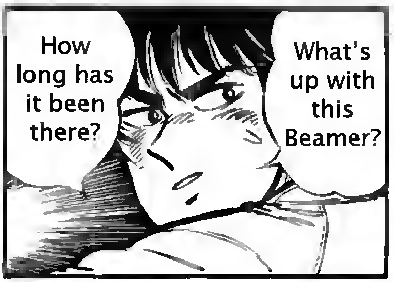

Dammit! How many more are in front of us!?
154, I think.


How many have we passed, Tamotsu!?
ZOOM

VRRRRRRR
You're damn right I am! To the edge of Japan, to the edge of the world...
I'll go as long as it takes until there's nobody in front of me!
That's enough for today.
Gunma...
VRRRRRRR
!!
!?
Time to go home and get some sleep!
L-Let's go back, Gunma!
Woo-hoo!

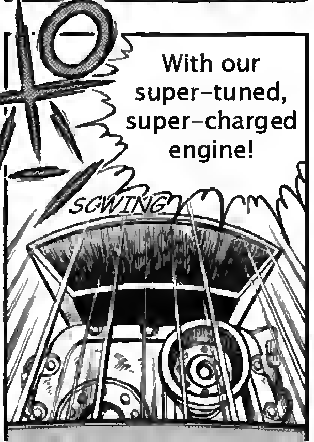

VRRRROOM
FORD

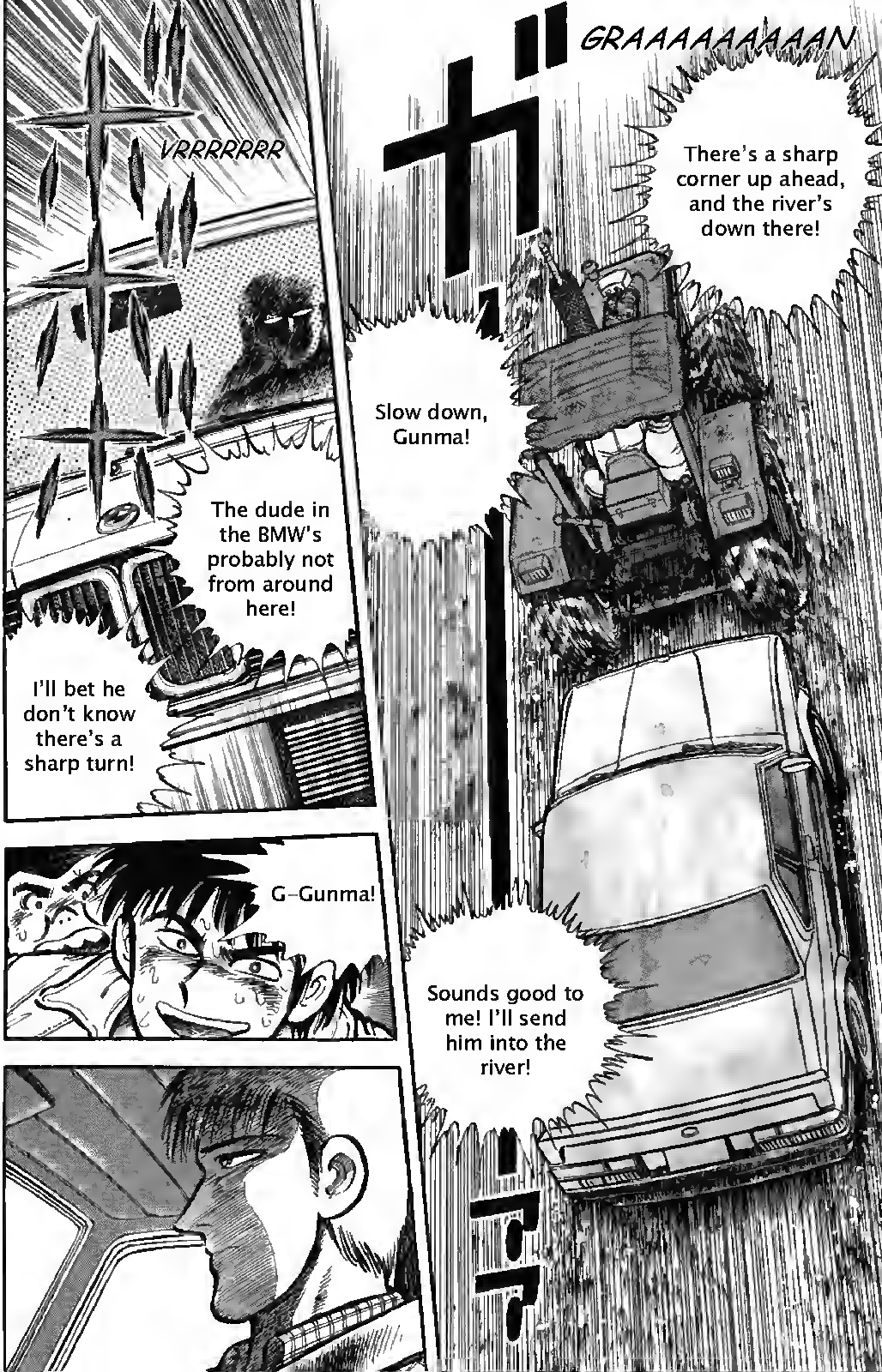
Let him pass, Gunma.
He's slip-streaming us.
Not your average guy.


How long has it been there?
What's up with this Beamer?

Don't do it, Gunma! We're gonna die!
VROOM
GRAAAAAAAAAN

Heh heh, I'll make this sucker eat my dust.


With our super-tuned, super-charged engine!
SCWING


VRRRRRR
The dude in the BMW's probably not from around here!
I'll bet he don't know there's a sharp turn!
G-Gunma!
GRAAAAAAAAAN
There's a sharp corner up ahead, and the river's down there!
Slow down, Gunma!
Sounds good to me! I'll send him into the river!

ZOOOM
!?
ALPINA
Whoa!
SCREEE
SCREETCH
BAM
SCREET
Whoa!
Whoa!
Whoa!
SCREE

Ah!
Ah!
Ah!
SPLAAASH
Wha!

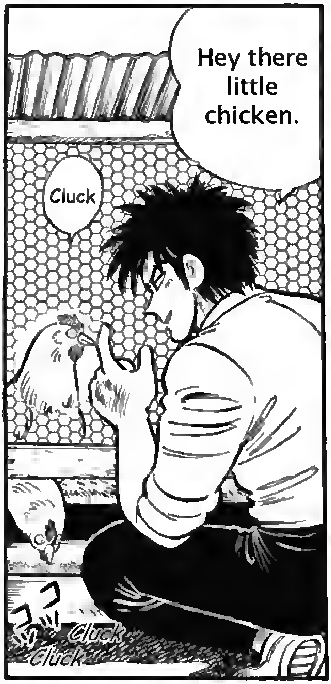
Stupid, weak-ass tires! It's all your fault!
Those stupid tires screwed everything up! They don't got the traction I need!

SSSSSSSS
ゴボゴボ
GURGLE
GURGLE
ゴボ…
GURGLE

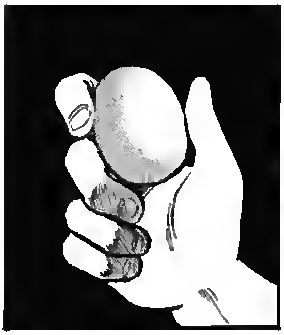
ボン
THUMP
I'll bet he was a pro. Better not tell Gunma.
That guy read the turn and stayed right on line. Judging by his speed and cornering...

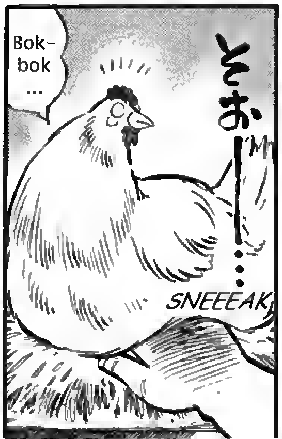
Chapter: 3
Friendship

WOONG
WOONG
WOONG
WOONG
Tamotsu.


Hey there little chicken.
Cluck
Cluck
Cluck

Hey, where are you man?
WOONG
WOONG
Cluck
Cluck
Cluck

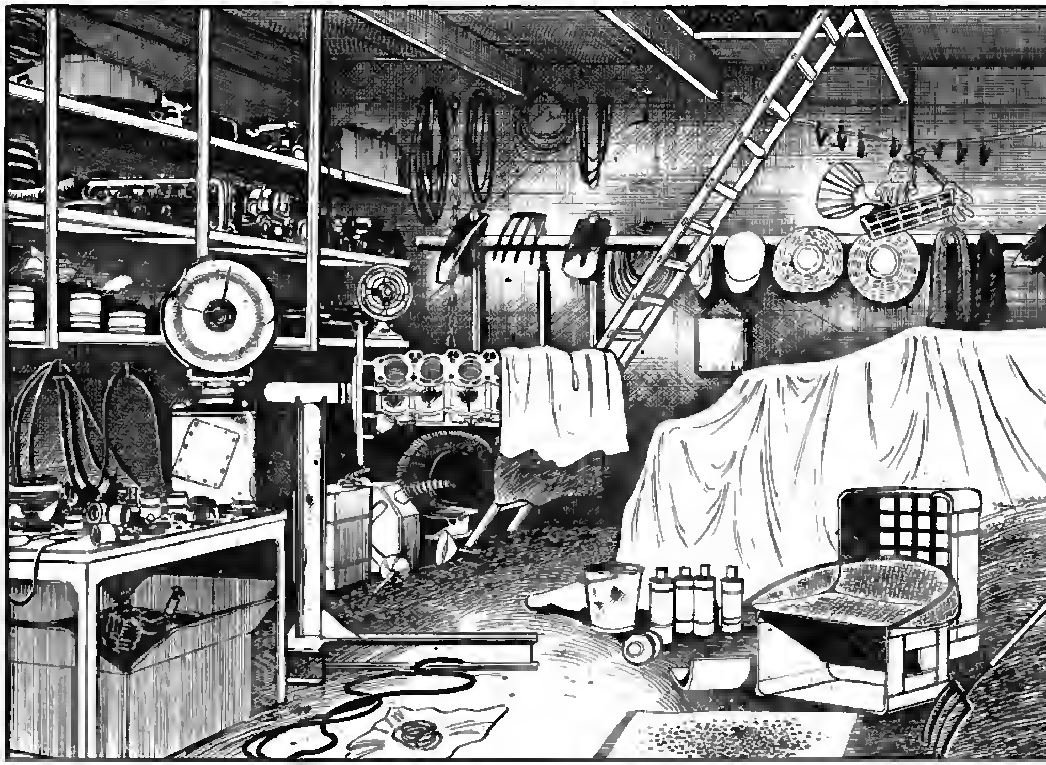


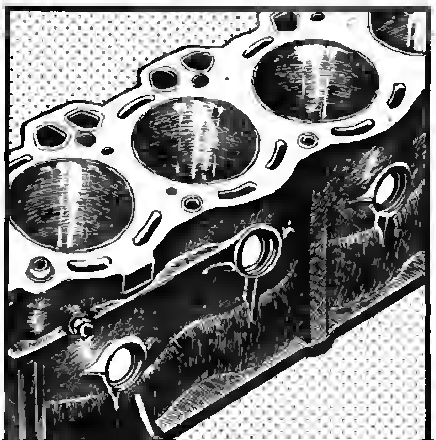

Bok-bok ...
とお!!
SNEEEAK

You and me are friends, right? Come on...
Cluck

Oh, heh heh, sure...
WOONG WOONG
Thanks for being a good friend to Tamotsu.
Oh, aren't you Mr. Akagi's boy?
BLINK
Because of him, we're able to put food on the table every day, and I never forget that.
You know, we have a lot to thank your father for.
He should be back soon.
Tamotsu's out gathering mushrooms at the moment.
Hmph ...
SPOOT SPOOT
If he decides to, we got to support him no matter what. That's what I tell everybody.
I heard he'll be running for a position in parliament.

ギィ。。
CREAK



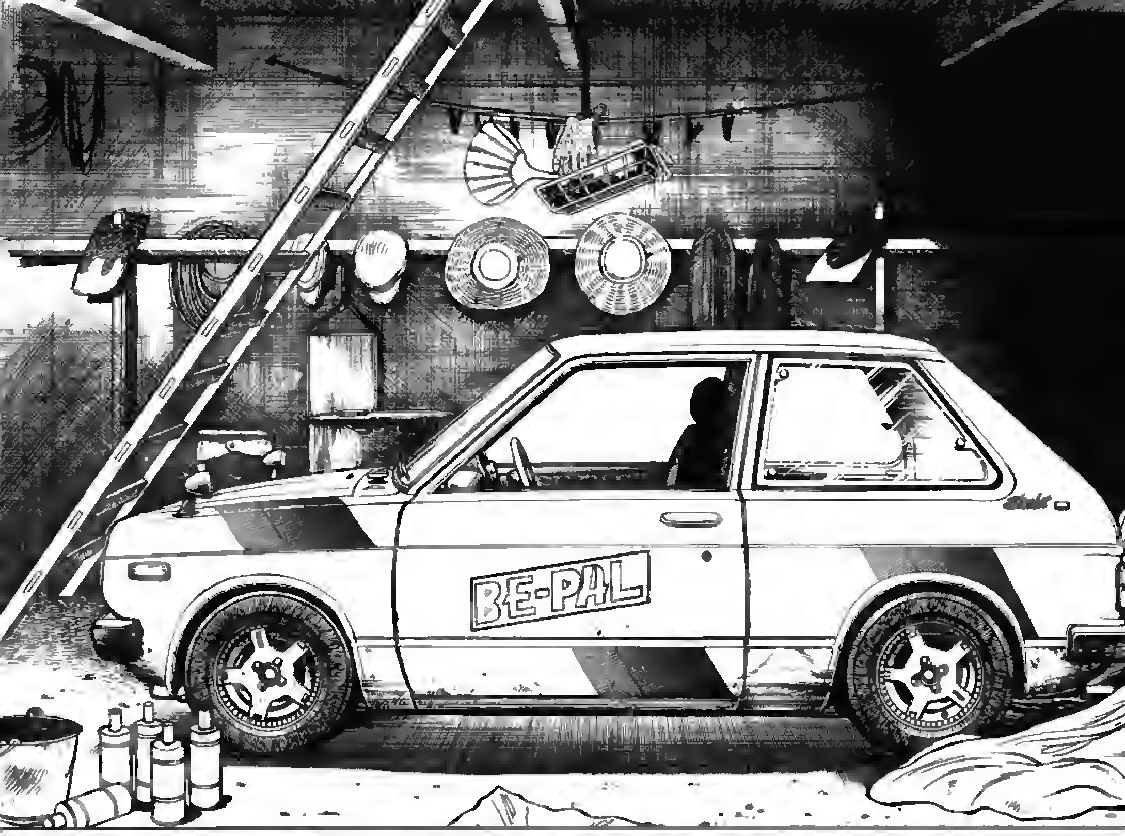


You little hoarder, you...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
Look at this. You never change, do you...?

SHUMP
Hmph.
I heard he'll be running for a position in parliament.
You know, we have a lot to thank your father for.
Hey.
G-Gunma!
Damn that cocky dude in the BMW.
Anyway, about that tractor, bro.
Oh, I guess if you put it that way...
Let's fix it up real nice.
What are you talking about?
This is practically my second home.
I didn't know you'd be here.
I...

And if you keep doing reckless stuff like that, you're gonna die, Gunma.
Of course they don't. A tractor's gotta be a tractor.
ガラン
CLINK
Wh...what do you mean by "nice"?
Those tires, dude. They don't have much traction.
?
Can we talk about this outside?
Yeah, that's why I'm telling you!
Come on, you know how good I am.
Momma! Make us some tea!
Come on out.
...
The smell of oil's making me sick in here.

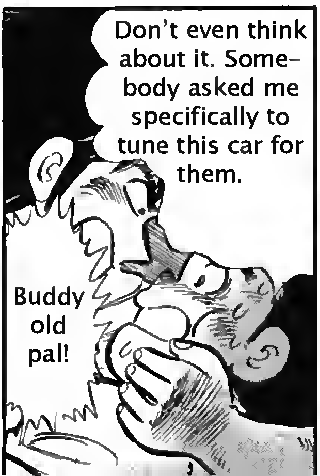
Arr...
Come on, man! I hate secrets!
Urgh
Hmm...
Huh?
What are you hiding?
ふらっ WOBBLE
...a minute.
Wait ...
ドキッ GULP
G-Gunma!
You've got some-thing...
No no no, you're acting weird.
I don't know what you're talking about, Gunma...
You can hole yourself up in this garage for days. So what's the deal?
ガラン CLANG
Gunma, cut it out!
Is this it!?
FWOOP
Aha!
GLANCE
GLANCE

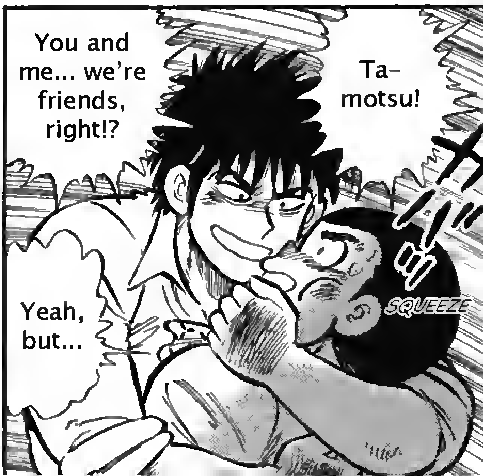

BE-PAL

I saw it.
Too late.

...
...

Pucker up.
G-Gunma ...


Don't even think about it. Somebody asked me specifically to tune this car for them.
Buddy old pal!


You and me... we're friends, right!?
Ta-motsu!
Yeah, but...
SQUEEZE

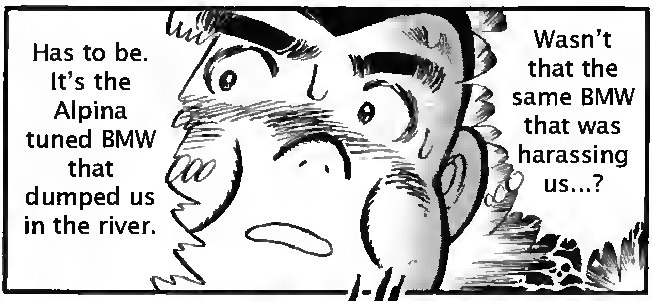
I've been entrusted with this car.
A week from now it's gonna be in a race.
VRRRRRRR
I know, I know!
Just a few minutes, Gunma. Got that?
Gunma, your eyes...
Yeah, but come on...
Ooh, it's got racing specs?
Gunmaaaa!!!
ZOOM

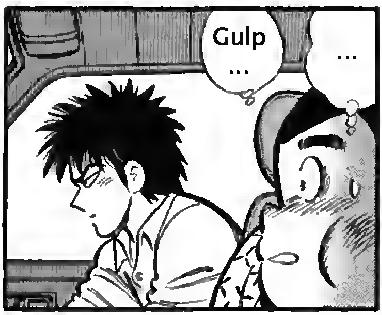
Gunma Akagi's his name. He's from a rich family, but he's a real idiot.
Right. That would be Akagi's good-for-nothin' son.
Huh? With a tractor?
WOOONG
WOOONG
Sure, it's easy to find...
His house ?
He's always causing trouble!
If you were another one of his victims, you oughta just go bang on their door.
Have a good one.
VRRRRRR
Right up there.
See it?

What's up with this wheel? It's so easy to turn!
Of course it is! This isn't a tractor, after all!
Stop it, Gunma! Really, that's enough!
ZOOOM
And I like these tires!
But once they reach their limits, they all go out at once!
WHOA
Basically, since they have excellent traction, it takes the driver a while to realize danger!
If you get too crazy on a turn, this car skips the spin and just flies!
SCREEETCH
Right! Got it!
Uh– oh...

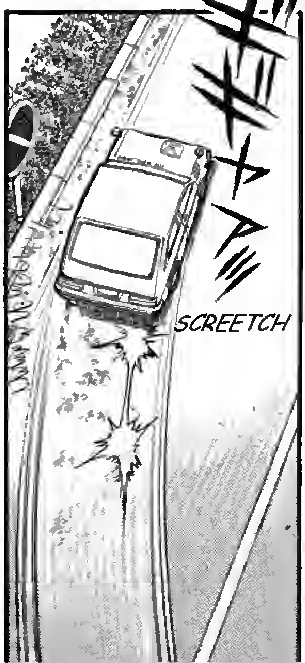
ZOOM

ZOOM


Has to be. It's the Alpina tuned BMW that dumped us in the river.
Wasn't that the same BMW that was harassing us...?

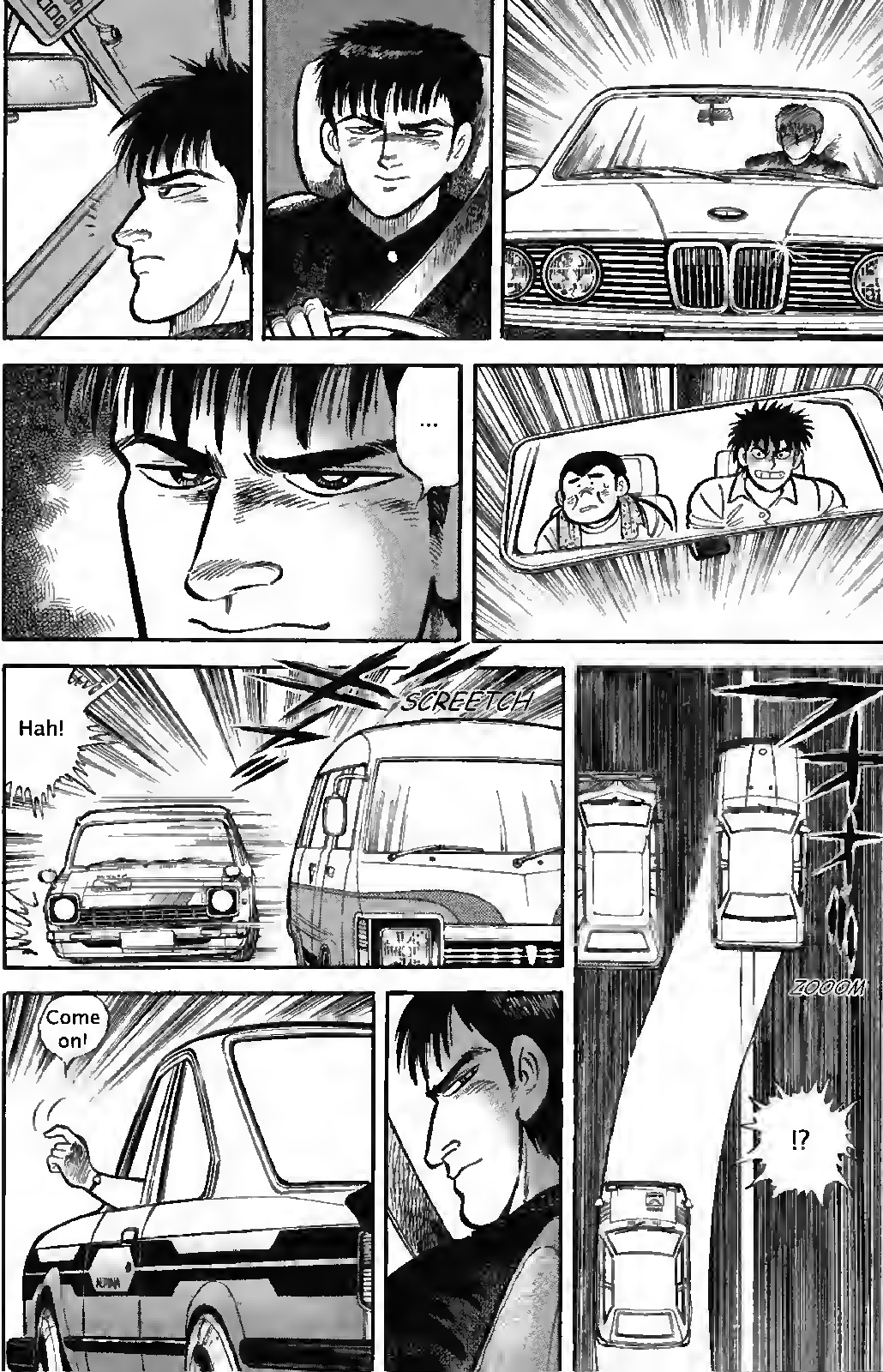

Gulp ...
...

Found you!


SCREETCH

Good thing Gunma didn't notice. He's too focused on his drivin'. Phew...

The driver's got that same lantern jaw.
Don't tell me you missed him, Tamotsu. That Beamer from the other day just flew by.
Plus...
SCREEEETCH
What are you doing, Gunma? Why are you making a U-turn!?
Gunma...
!
That same smug little grin. I'll wipe it off clean this time.
How'd he notice all that from a car flying the other way?
I don't believe this guy.
ZOOOOOM
It's payback time, jerk-off!


...
Hah!
SCREETCH
ZOOOM
!?
Come on!

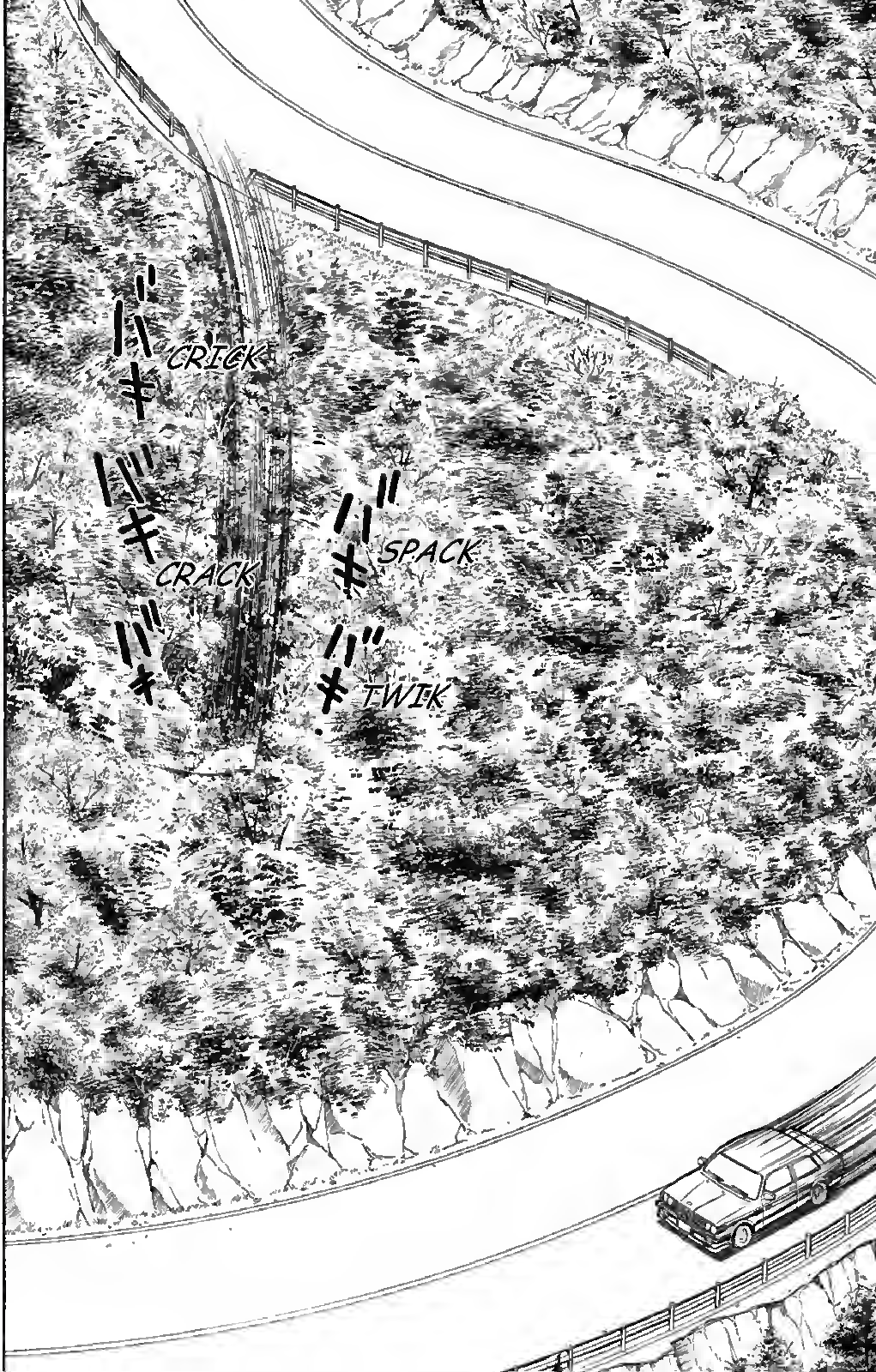
As far as I know, Gunma's never driven anything but a tractor till now...
SHIVER
SHIVER
...
He's taunting us!
...but knowin' all the right spots to check... I can't believe it.
Being able to drive fast is one thing...
And he don't even got his license yet...
Or any other chores around the farm... ever again.
Momma, I might not make it back to pick mushrooms for you.
...this crazy friend here.
ZOOOOOM
I got...

But that'll make me go faster!
SWOOSH!
It's called the "Tuck-in Technique"!
Careful, Gunma! If you let up on the gas too much around this turn...
...the back's gonna spin to the outside!
The Tugga what?
Don't drop your RPMs, Gunma! Optimal torque region is higher!
VOOM
QUIT YER YAPPIN'!

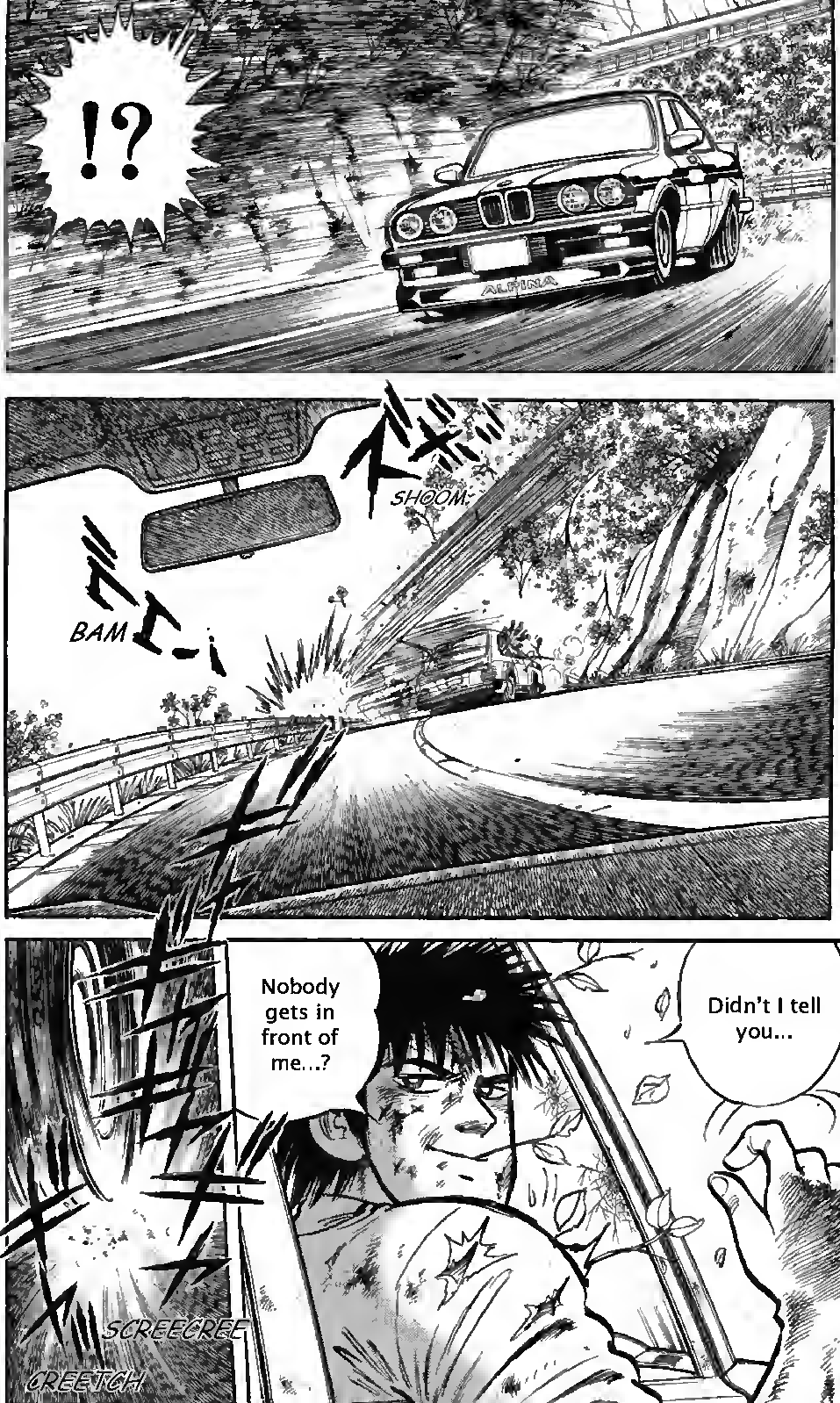
Akagi, is it...
Gunma ...
VOOM
CHOOK
Damn! Look at him go!
I knew it. He's a pro.
...
VROOM
...
Better give up now, Gunma.

That's what I wanted to hear!
Huh?
Y-Yeah, sure. But...
Tamotsu! We're friends, right!?
What are you doing!?
Wha-!
Yaarr-gggh!
CRACK
Who-aahh!

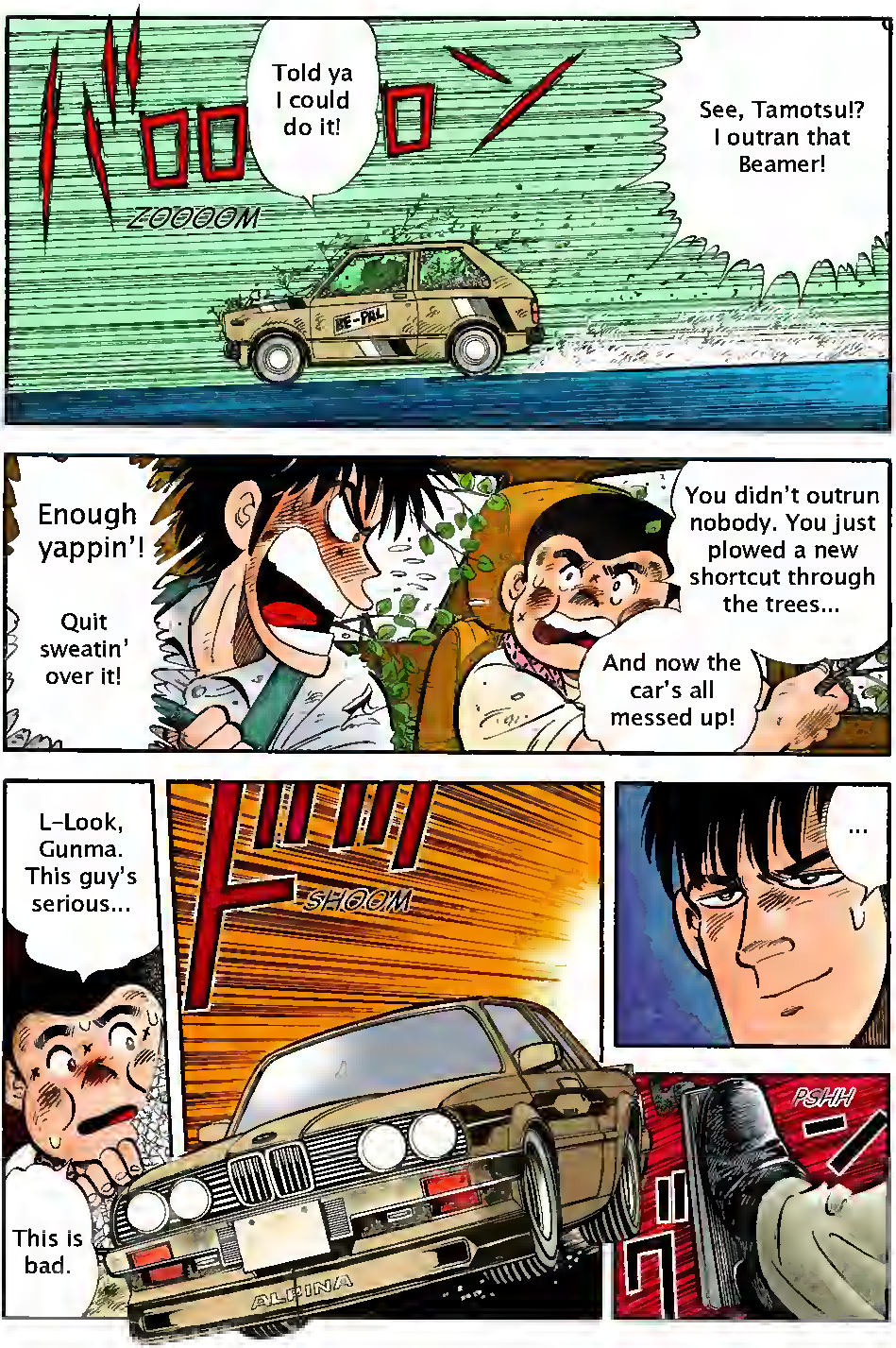
G-Gunma! Wh-What are you... doing!?
CRACK
SMASH
TWIK
Just shut up! I got this!
We're gonna fall!
Woahhh!


CRICK
CRACK
SPACK
TWIK

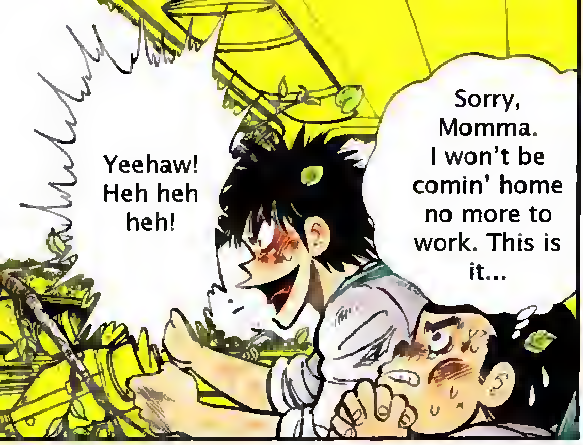
ドドド
BISHHHHH


!?
ALPINA
SHOOM
BAM
Nobody gets in front of me...?
Didn't I tell you...
Come on.
SCREECREE
CREETCH

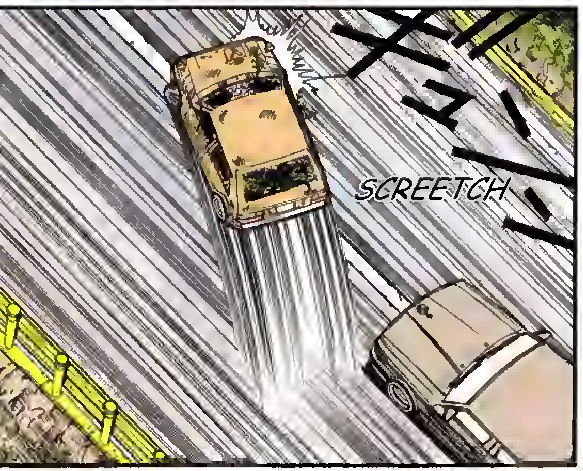
Chapter 4: Fairplay



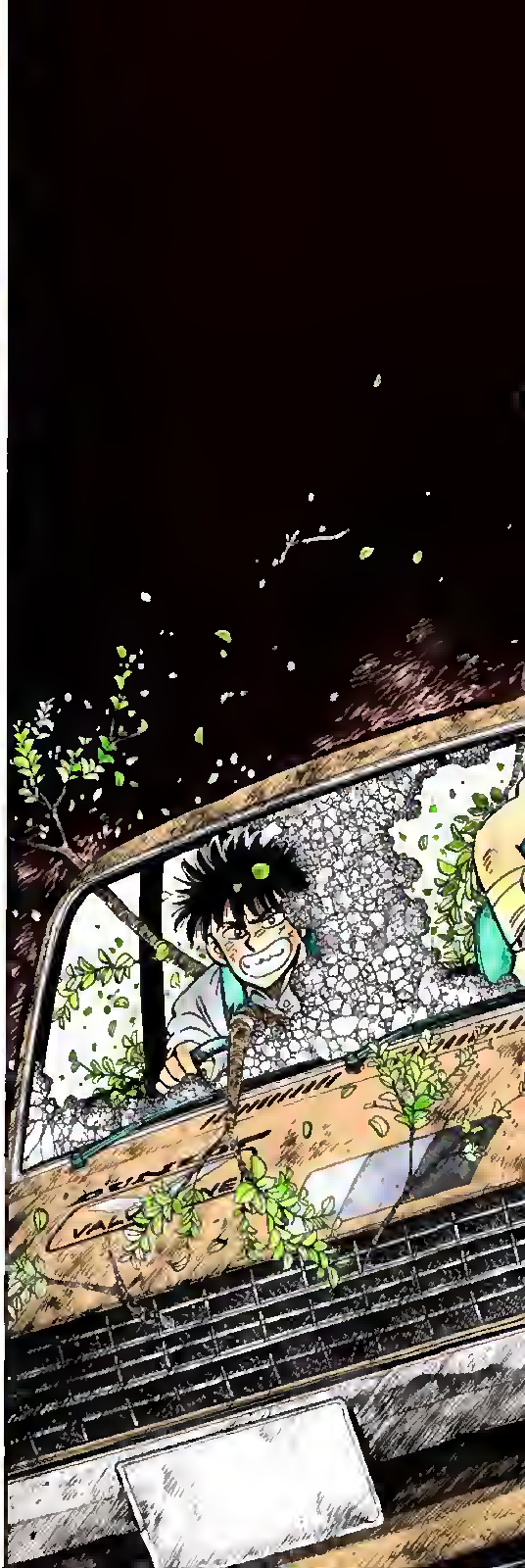
Chapter: 4
Fairplay
YEEHAW!


Yeehaw! Heh heh heh!
Sorry, Momma. I won't be comin' home no more to work. This is it...

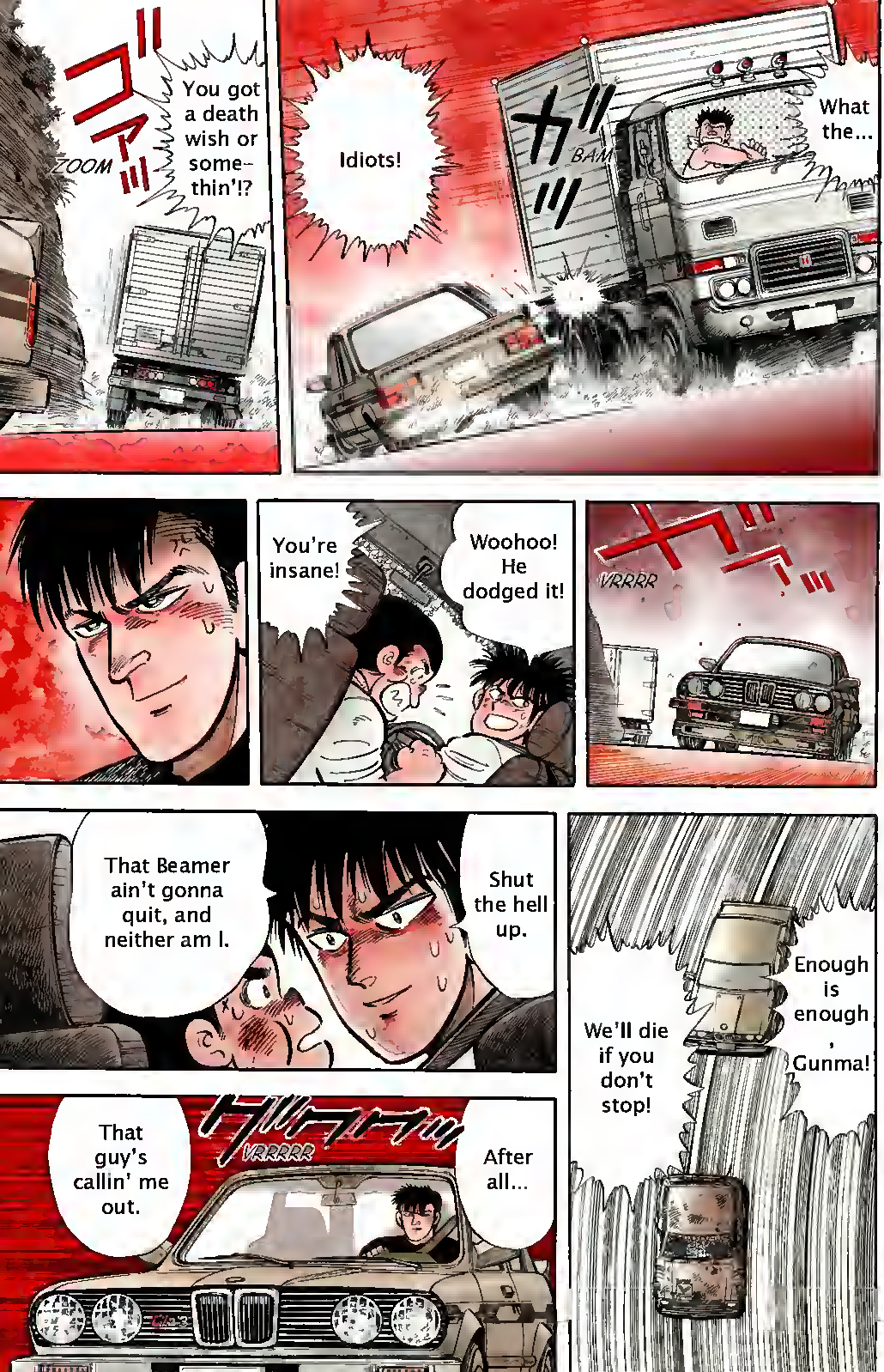
No way in hell I'm lettin' this joker pass me!
You're not gettin' past me!


SCREETCH

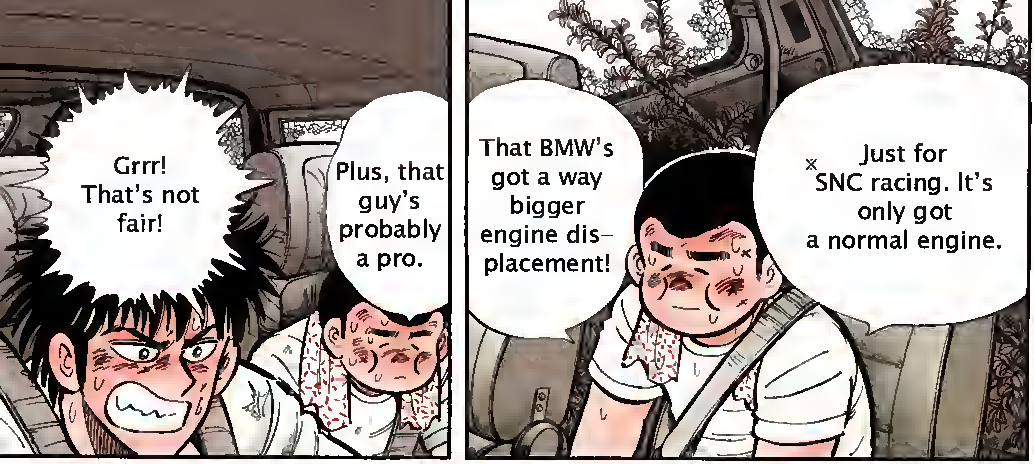
!

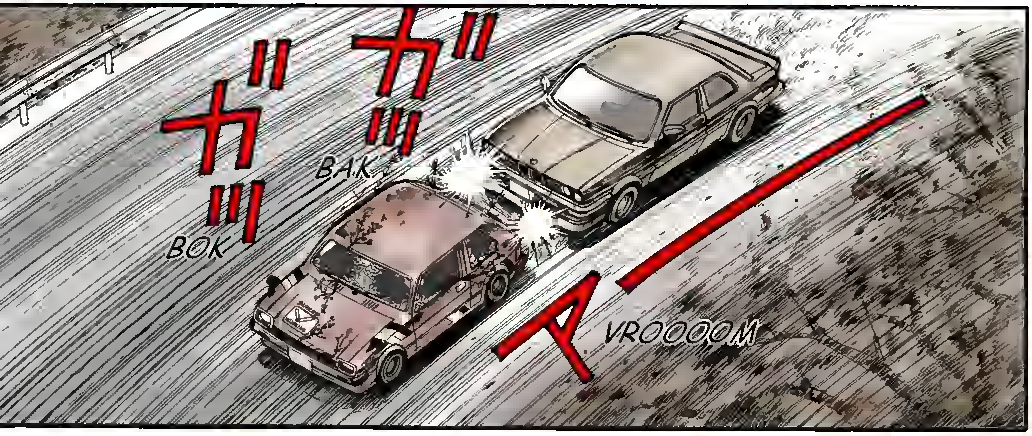


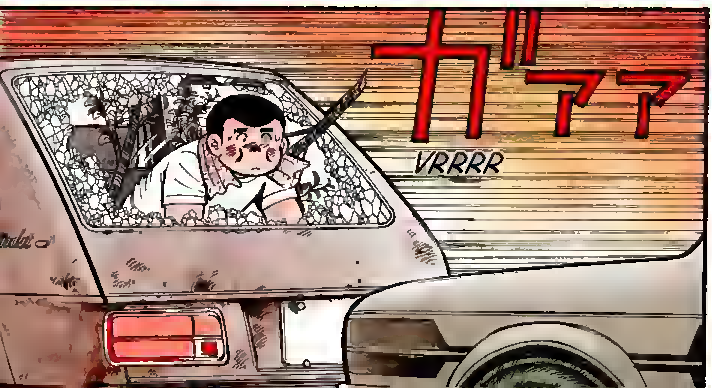
ギュッ
ギュッ
ギュッ
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
Ha!
Hey!
ギュッ
SCREE
Heh!
ギュッ
SCREE
...
G-
Gunma...!
Hey! Did you see my handling!?
VRRR
SCREE
Who-
aaah!
!!
!!
THOOMP


ゴァ!!!
You got a death wish or some-thin'!?
ZOOM
Idiots!
カ!!!
BAM
What the...
You're insane!
Woohoo! He dodged it!
カ!!!
VRRRR
That Beamer ain't gonna quit, and neither am I.
Shut the hell up.
We'll die if you don't stop!
Enough is enough, Gunma!
That guy's callin' me out.
VRRRRR
After all...

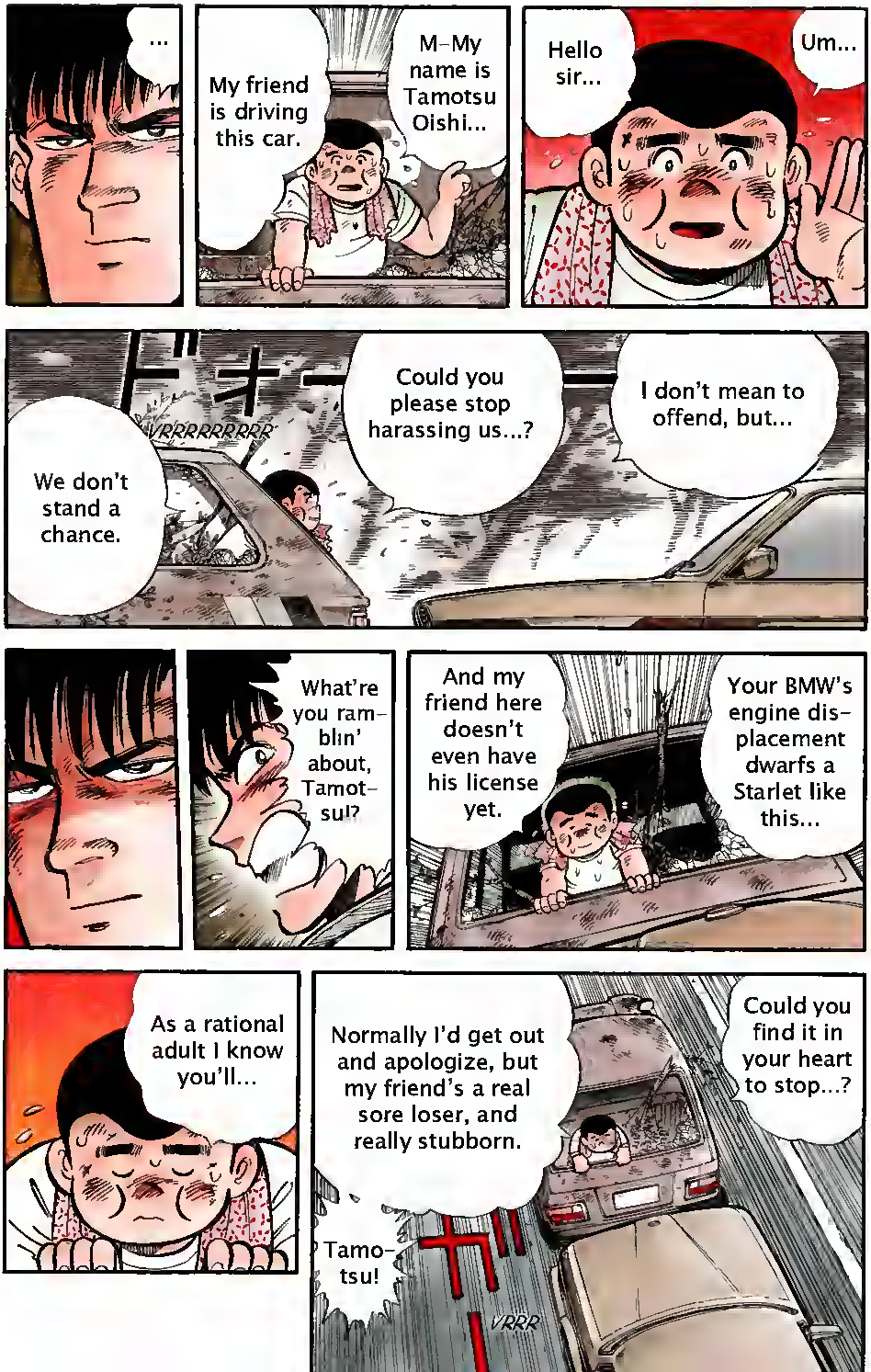
Urgh!
SCREETCH
BAK
Heh ...
What's he doing!?
Wha...
BAK
BUK
I thought these were racing specs!
Come on! Is this the fastest it can go!?
BUMP
BUMP
SHOOOM


Grrr! That's not fair!
Plus, that guy's probably a pro.
That BMW's got a way bigger engine dis-placement!
Just for ※SNC racing. It's only got a normal engine.

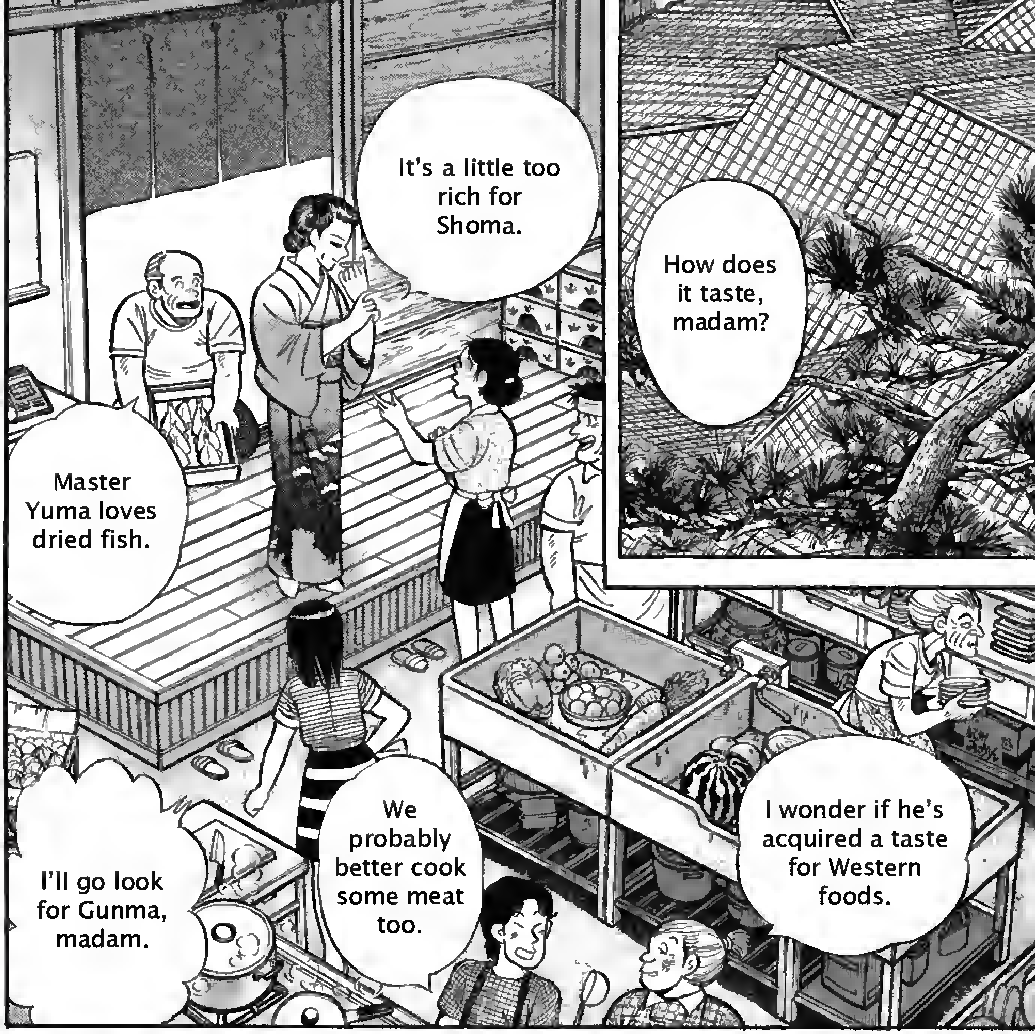


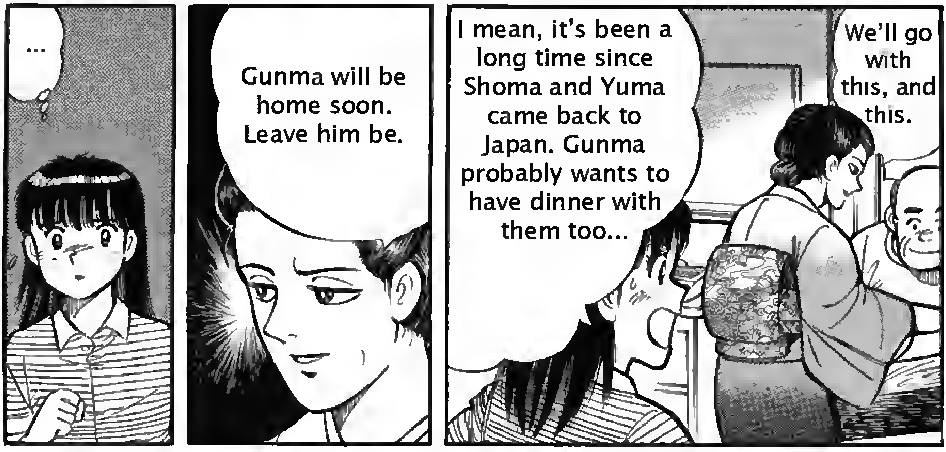


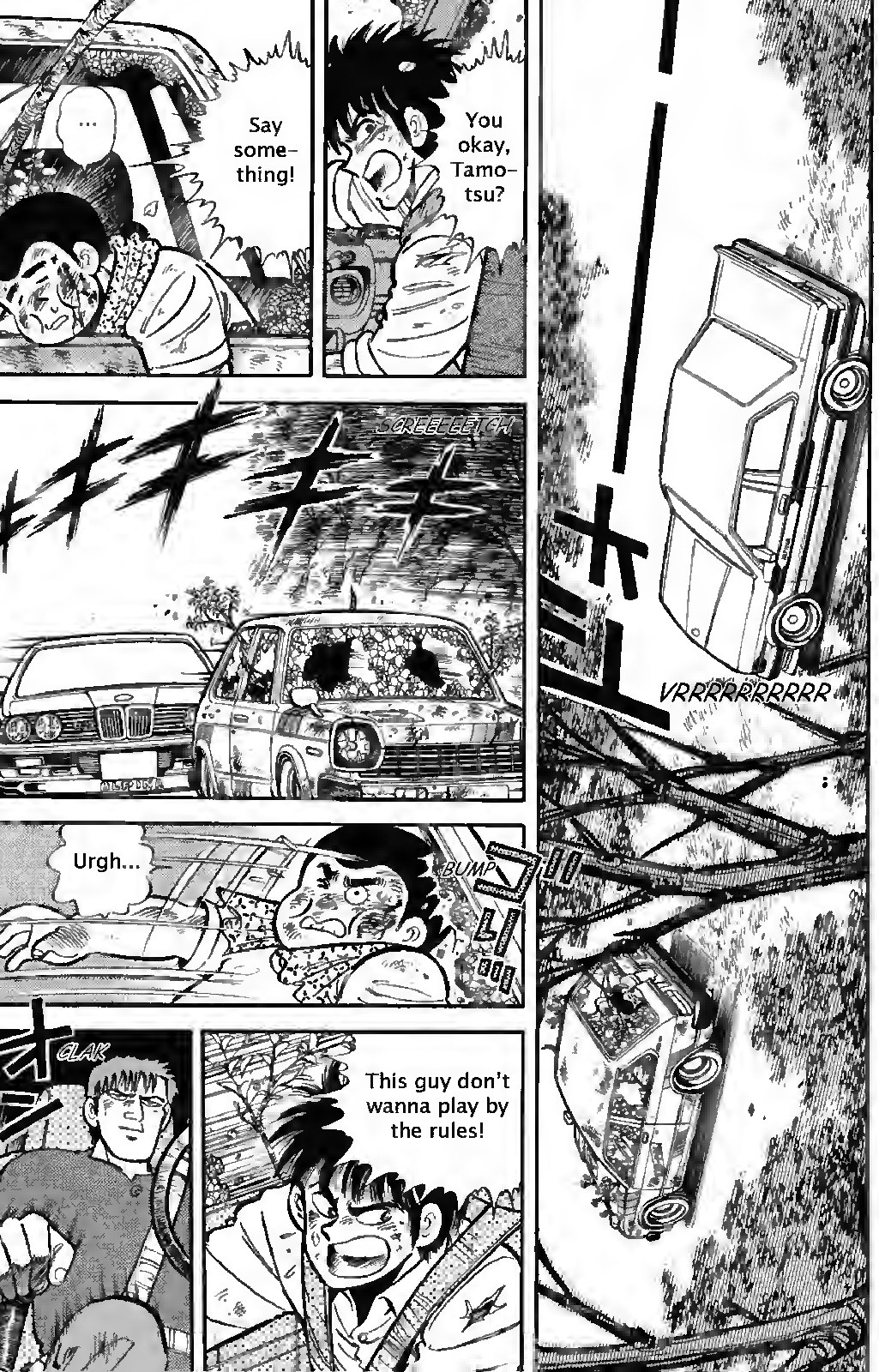
※SNC Race = Starlet Normal Cup Race As the name implies, engine tuning etc. is generally not permitted.


...
My friend is driving this car.
M-My name is Tamotsu Oishi...
Hello sir...
Um...
ドォー
VRRRRRRRRR
We don't stand a chance.
Could you please stop harassing us...?
I don't mean to offend, but...
What're you ram-blin' about, Tamot-su?
And my friend here doesn't even have his license yet.
Your BMW's engine dis-placement dwarfs a Starlet like this...
As a rational adult I know you'll...
Normally I'd get out and apologize, but my friend's a real sore loser, and really stubborn.
Could you find it in your heart to stop...?
Tamo-tsu!
VRRR

...
Whoa!
BAM
Dammit!
SHATTER
ZOOM
Tamo-
tsu!
Forget it, Gunma! This guy's serious!


It's a little too rich for Shoma.
How does it taste, madam?
Master Yuma loves dried fish.
We probably better cook some meat too.
I wonder if he's acquired a taste for Western foods.
I'll go look for Gunma, madam.


...
Gunma will be home soon. Leave him be.
I mean, it's been a long time since Shoma and Yuma came back to Japan. Gunma probably wants to have dinner with them too...
We'll go with this, and this.


...
Say some-thing!
You okay, Tamo-tsu?
SCREECH
VRRRRRRRRRR
Urgh...
BUMP
CLAK
This guy don't wanna play by the rules!

SCREEEETCH
BANG
BUK

VRRRRRR
G... Gunma ...
Now I'm pissed.
Dam- mit.
GREEEE

VRRRRRRR
RE-UP
Straight up...
... pissed off!
FOR YOU!
FWOOP
FLAP
ZOOM
What the...

What the hell!?
Wha ...
ZOOOM
EWOOP
Me too?
Clothes?
Stop yer whinin' and get those clothes off! All of 'em!
Heh heh
No no no...
So we gotta do things to even the playing field!
He's been harassing us to show he's got the better car.
So strip them clothes off dude!
VROOM
...
...is the spirit of fair play.
That, my friend ...

SCREETCH
SWOOF
SCREET
GULP
Sorry...
SWOOF
You still got your under-pants!
I got nothin' left to throw.
And I got my pants here!
But I...
Can't you aim better than that!?
I'm trying...
This is do or die buddy!

SWOOF
Shut up!
Gunma! Let's just apolo-gize!
I can't do this any-more.
No... no more.
SLLLLIP
CLICK
FLAP
You expect that jerk-off to for-give us after all we've done?
You first-class wuss.
Listen up, Ta-motsu.
Wuss burger.
Maybe he'll punch us at the most...
You think sayin' sorry at this point is gonna make it all better?
One wrong move and we'll be guilty of murder.

Take a look at his eyes. He'll beat us half to death.
He'll rip off our arms at the least...
I'll take care of him...
Oh man... What now!?
Take the wheel.
Geez, then what should we do?
!?
I feel it in my stomach!
Yeah we do.
We've got nothin' left in this car to throw!
No...
VRRRRRRR

...
!!
Wha!
Urrrr–
ngh!
Unngh
...
Unngh
...
!?

GRR GRR
...
CLIK CLIK
No-body.
I mean NO-BODY.
Gets in front of me!
VRRRRRRR
How's Gunma?
Just fine...
How's Mom doing?
But it's nice to be back in Japan.
How was it living over-seas?
Not bad.

He's uh...
VRRRROOM
Gunma?
Yeeeehaw!
VROOOOM
Starlet
It looks like.
Just fine...
...

Chapeter 5: Family Time

Master Shoma, Master Yuma, you both look so refined.
They're here!
Welcome home.

How've you been?
Hello everyone.

Hi Mom.
Oh.
Hello Yuma.
Good to see you, Mom.
Wel-come home, Shoma.
...
Heh heh... Don't worry about it.
Gun-ma?
We saw Gunma in a car going the other way.
What's wrong with your father?
Hello Yuki.
Wel-come home, Master Shoma.
Oh...
Okay. Come now.
I sure am hungry, Mom. Do you have anything?

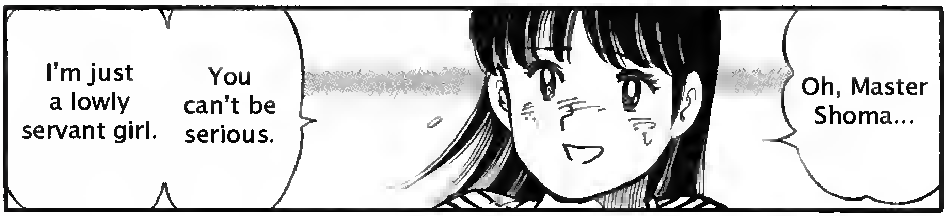
I said it's nothing!
But you look so pale...
Did some-thing happen?
It's nothing.
...
He did some-thing.
It's Gunma, isn't it?
うんぬよ
Yeeeehaw!
I realize that.
Now that you're trying to get into politics, that boy can really ruin your chances.
My good-ness.
I can only imagine what it was.

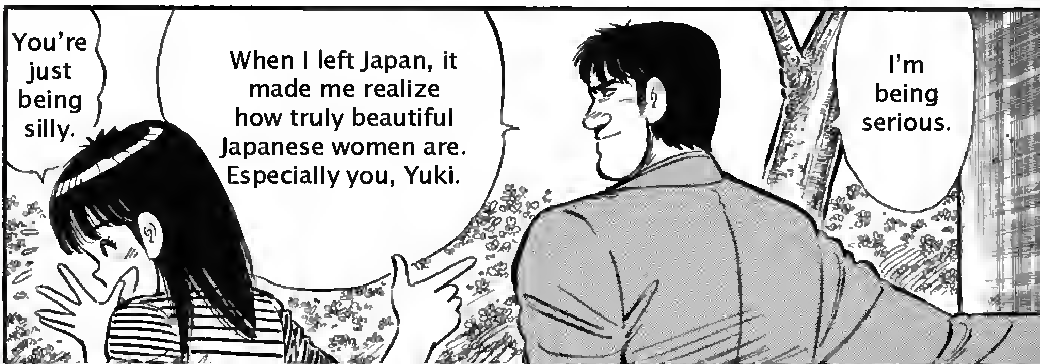
Sweet!
Made espe-cially for you, Master Yuma.
Ooh, this looks awesome!
It's fine. I just wanna eat already.
Oh Master Yuma! We're supposed to take care of that!
Better get in on some of this fast!
Get in here bro!
He hasn't changed a bit.

It's been a year.
Anything change since I've been gone?
Not really.
Hmph... At least one thing has changed.
You've gotten very pretty.

What about me?
No, it's true.
Ha ha ha...
Oh, you're just being nice!
Ha ha

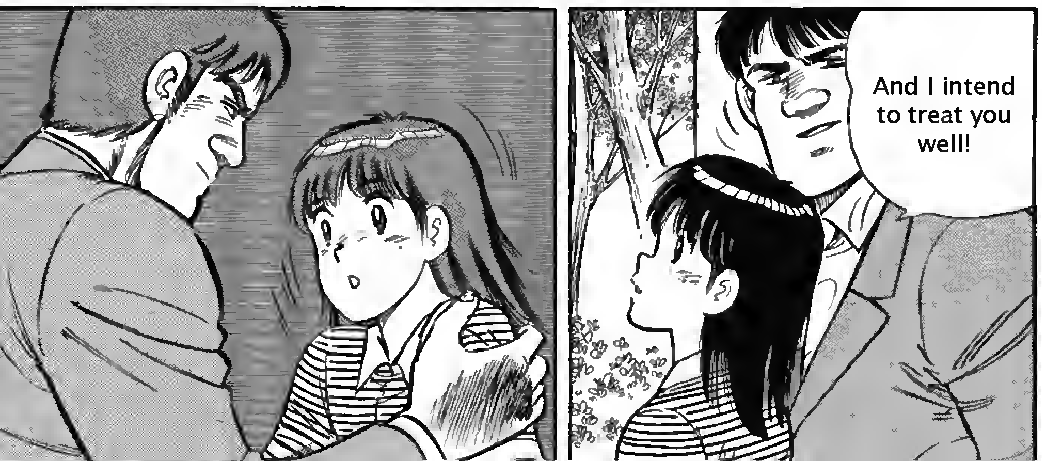
Did you read those letters I sent you from over-seas?
All of them?
Huh?
That's it?
You've always been handsome, Master Shoma. But now you're even more refined.


I'm just a lowly servant girl.
You can't be serious.
Oh, Master Shoma...


You're just being silly.
When I left Japan, it made me realize how truly beautiful Japanese women are. Especially you, Yuki.
I'm being serious.

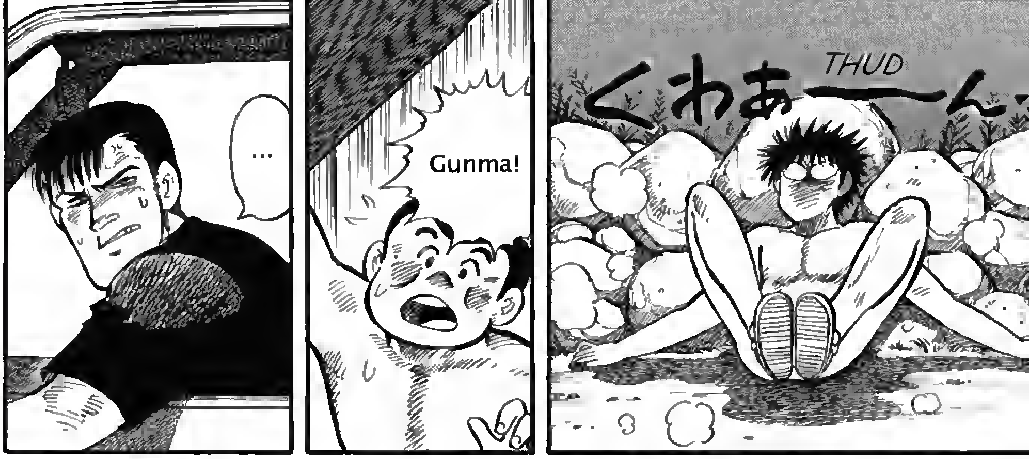
I'm telling the truth.
Soon I'll be graduating from college, and taking over my father's position.
Which means I'll have total control over 5,000 hectares of forest land, not to mention more than 20 affiliate companies.

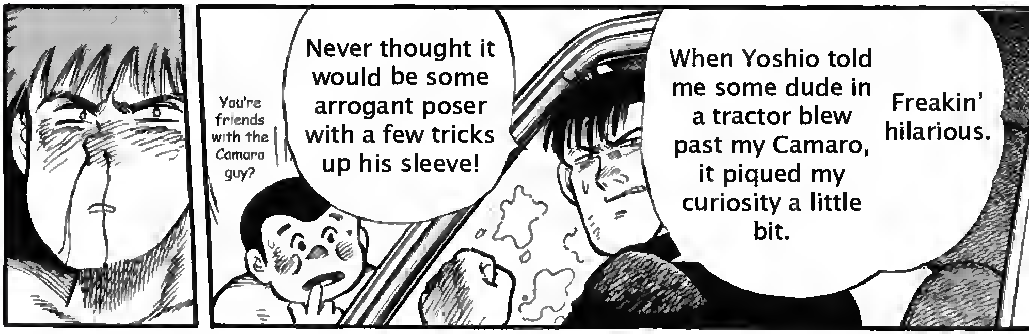
: GASP

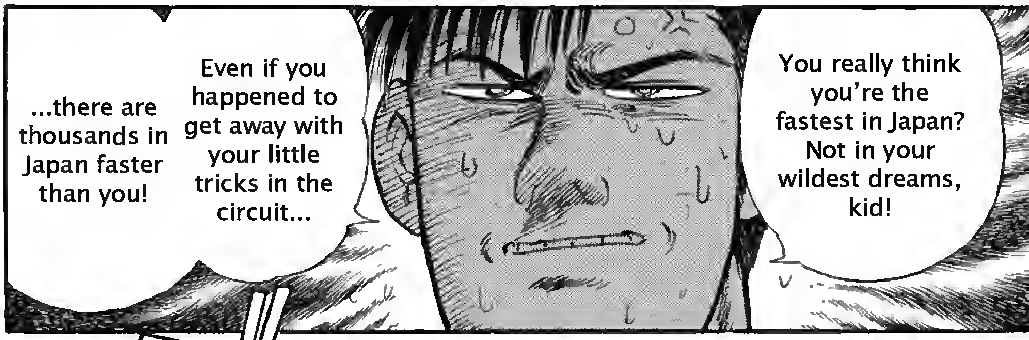

And I intend to treat you well!

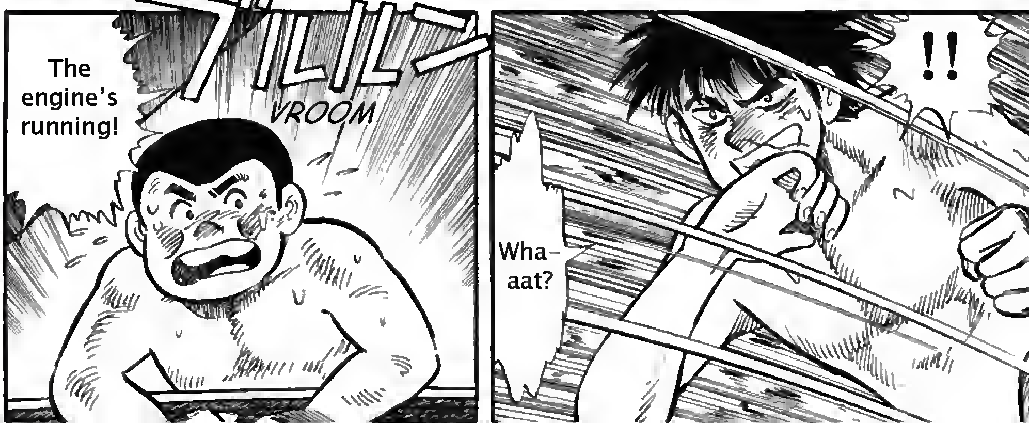
Yuki!
...
It's Master Gunma!
ぼろろぉん
VROOOM
Oh, he's home!
ばろんん
VROOM
Gunma's here.
すりすりすりすり
SCUFF
SCUFF
Hurry!
ガシ
ガシ
DRAAG
へたしょーい
ACHOOOO
カチャ
KACHINK

Gunma! Get some water!
Don't you know when to throw in the towel?
You just had to keep following us when you couldn't see nothin'!
We'll get it nice and clean in no time.
BANG BANG
Really sorry about that.
Our bad, our bad.
...
Oh, you really look down.
GLARE
I gotta admit... You're a pretty good driver.
But still...
WHAM
I'm pretty much the fastest driver in Japan, after all...
Against anyone else, you might have had a chance!
Hey, don't get too down on yourself, okay? You just gotta accept the loss and move on.


...
Gunma!
THUD
くわぁーーん


You're friends with the Camaro guy?
Never thought it would be some arrogant poser with a few tricks up his sleeve!
When Yoshio told me some dude in a tractor blew past my Camaro, it piqued my curiosity a little bit.
Freakin' hilarious.


...there are thousands in Japan faster than you!
Even if you happened to get away with your little tricks in the circuit...
You really think you're the fastest in Japan? Not in your wildest dreams, kid!


The engine's running!
ブルルン
VROOM
Wha-aat?
!!

Get back here! You sorry ass...!
BUMP
ゴチッ!!
Whoa!
ガイイイ!!!
SCREETCH
Gunma!
I said get back here!
Stop!
ゴオッ!!
ZOOM
!!
ジャーー!!!
PSSSHHH
ドドドド
FIZZZZZ
はぁ はぁ
HUFF HUFF
す…
HUFF

さささ…
HA
HA
HA

はは…
HA
HA
HA

はははは
HA HA HA
Okay.
Gimme some more, Yuki!
People have been urging me to run. Thought I'd enter into the next House election.
That's right.
Poli-tics!?
Really!?
Anyway, I wanted to hear your opinions on the matter.
Yuma...
So you're finally tired of being a local assembly member.
...?
You're awfully quick to agree, Shoma.
PICK PICK
This is great, Dad. I'm sure you'll get elected!
I'm all for it!

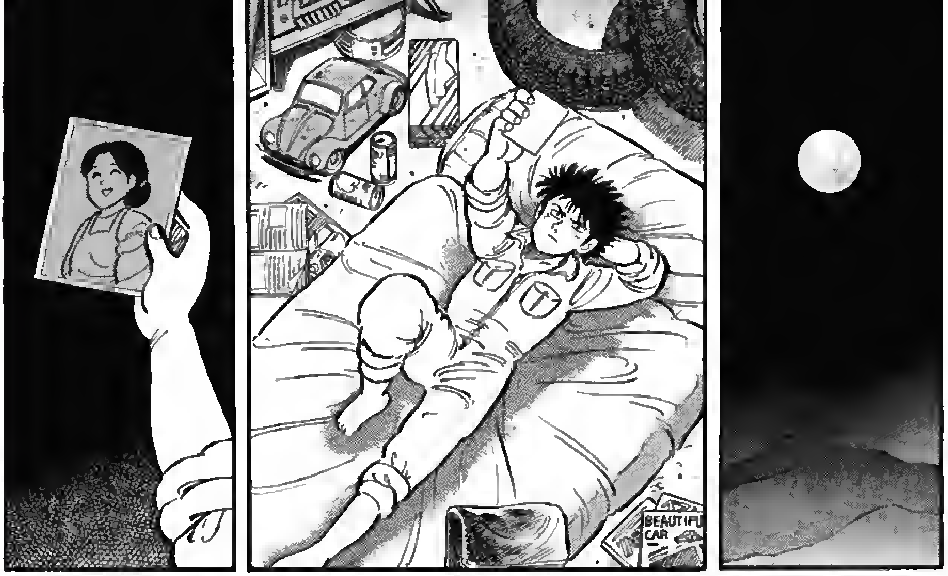
As the eldest son in the Akagi household, I'll do my utmost to keep our company in top shape!
Of course! I completely understand!
OK
If I do get elected, I won't be able to run the company anymore.
It'll be up to you, as my eldest son, to take a substantial amount of power and run things in my place.
ぽーヒ!!
GRAB
Right away!
More!
SWIFF!
...I vow to never betray your expectations, Dad...
Of course...
はい!!
Right away!
Tea!
Wow, Shoma. That's quite a responsibility to take on!
Y-Yes it is.
I fully understand!
Yuki, get my bath ready.
I'm done!
Right away
SWIP
I still wanna fool around for a while!
Yup!
But for now, he's still just in high school.
And eventually, I'd like to have Yuma working with us as well.

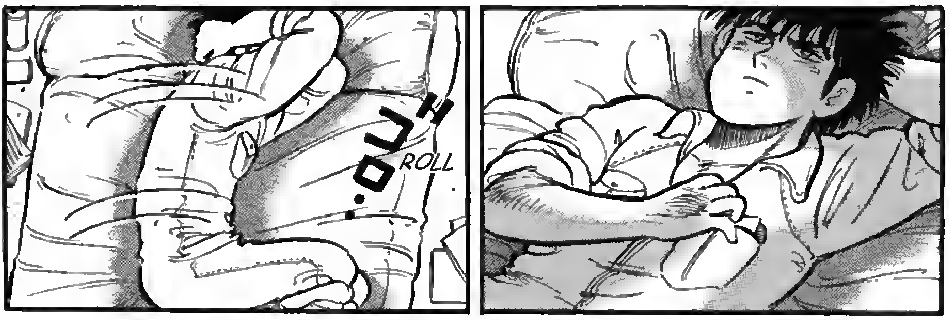
Not about that.
No.
I don't care about your company stuff.
I want to talk to you.
Wait Gunma!
...the course of your future!
I want to talk about...
You're the wart, and a huge disgrace to this family!
So what I want to say is...
...but with the House elections coming up, it's perfectly normal for a politician's family life to be scrutinized, warts and all.
The local elections are one thing...
How mean...

Fine, Mom.
Yuma!
I don't think you have to be so...
Dad...
Leave my momma out of this.
G-Gunma...
!!
...your lifestyle and attitude have been problematic on a daily basis.
Ever since I heard of Shizue's death five years ago, and decided to take you in at age 12...
Shizue did a terrible job of raising you.
Cut it out!
Gunma, please don't.
You filthy old...
...clean up your act!
If it makes you angry...

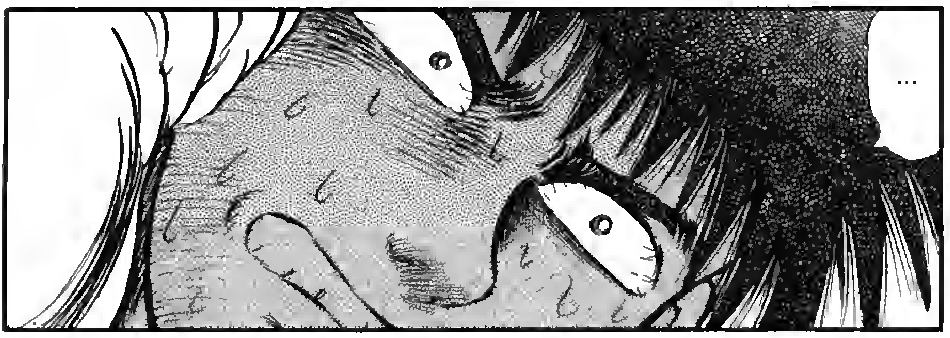
You know what.
I've got some-thing to say.
You...
Gunma!
BAM
That's enough, Gunma!
CLATTER
...she believed in you and loved you to the end!
Even though you treated her like property...
She was a good woman!
My momma ...
So like I said, leave my momma out of this!
No woman can ever take her place.
That's all.
But in return, you get the hell out of this house, and never come back!
I'll give you what-ever you want.
It seems I really did make a mistake by taking you in...

I'm ready for seconds!
Yuki!
!!
Right away.
SLAM
Come on, Yuki! Get my bath ready!
Right away.
STOMP
STOMP
...
Hurry up and get my food!
...


BEAUTIFUL CAR


ROLL

There are thousands in the circuit faster than you!
Fastest in Japan? Not in your wildest dreams, kid!


...

I'm coming in
Are you asleep?
Gunma ...
Poor Gunma...
Nobody under-stands...
I feel so bad for him...
Where did he go?
Huh?
!!

PUSH
Ah...
Please stop.
Master Shoma...
Just relax and enjoy this, Yuki. I'll treat you well.
Master Gunma!
He took off on a tractor. I doubt he'll be back anytime soon.

Don't fight it!
N-No...
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
Yuki...!
No...
There are thousands in the circuit faster than you! Thousands...
Please stop...
HUFF
HUFF

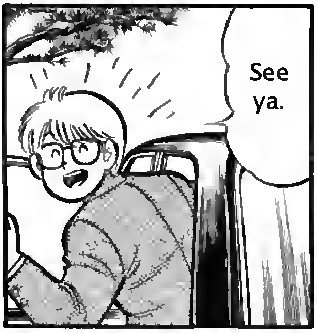
Chapter 6:
Foot On
That stupid Beamer. He's just a sore loser...

I'm sur-
prised.
!
That
wasn't
your first
time...
...
Was it
Gunma...?
...not
a bad
person.
Master
Gunma's
...
He's rotten
to the
core...
I'm sure he
must've
forced
himself on
you.
Yeah
right.

Anyway, it's time you gave up on Gunma!
He's only inherited Dad's bad traits. Just a lowlife punk.
He does have his father's blood flowing through him after all...
For better or for worse, our father is extremely self-centered...
But he's also achieved a lot in life.
Yuki!
Please stop. I don't want you saying bad things about Master Gunma.
KACHIK
Is Master Gunma really leaving this house?
KACHINK
You'll eventually see it.
He's a waste of space!

Hurry up, Yuma.
It's important for you to show your face at these things.
I thought this was for you. I'm still just a kid.
WOOONG
What a hassle...
These business parties are always so stuffy.
WOOONG
WOOONG
WOOONG
And it'll benefit you too in the long run, to establish a little face recognition at your age, as Soichiro Akagi's son.
Well, now that Dad's going into politics, we better ready ourselves.
HA HA HA
はは
Ha ha ha... You've got no ambition.
Why does he wanna do this anyway? Seems like such a hassle.
Aren't we doing fine as it is?
Politicians, huh...

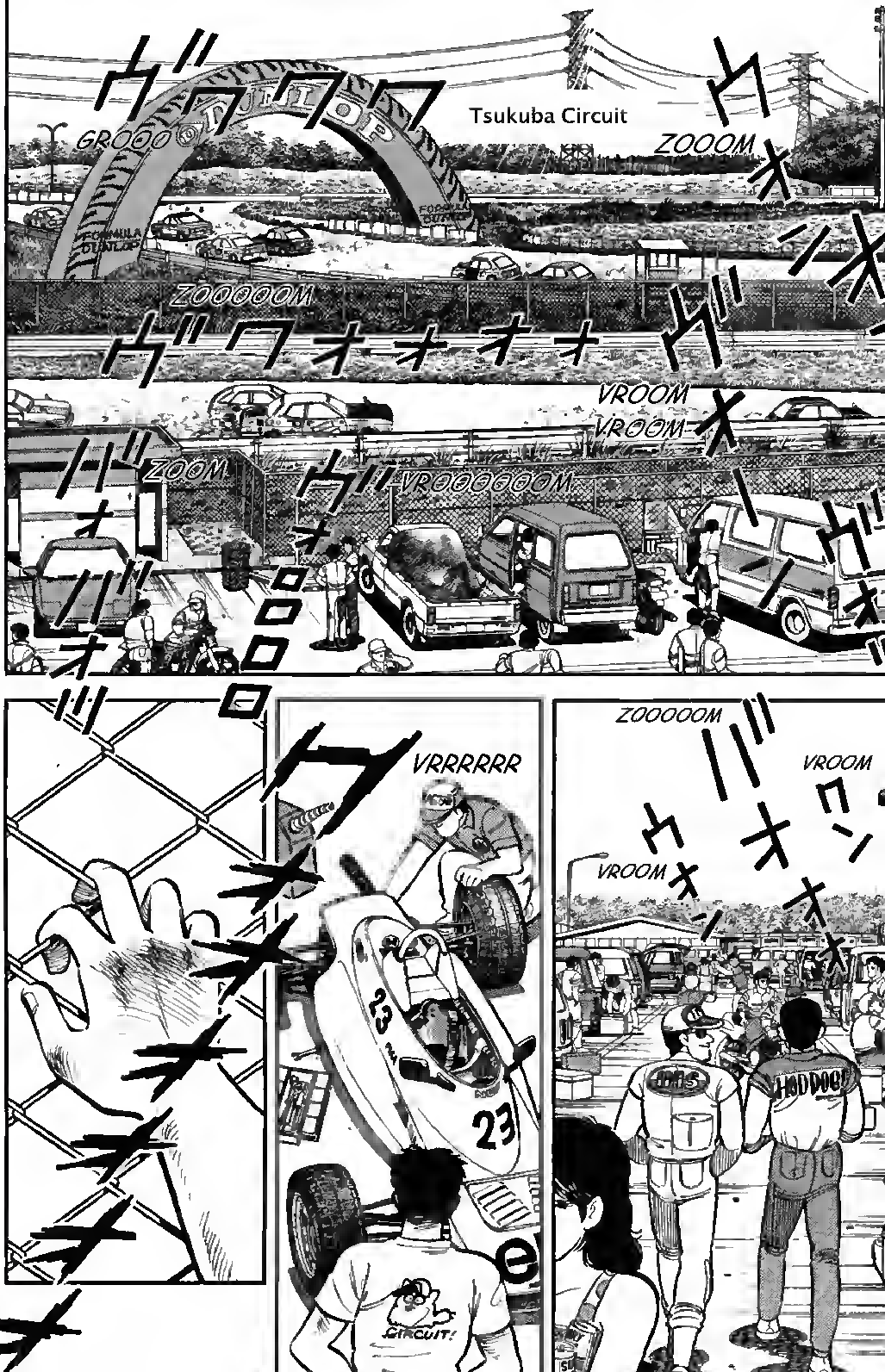
WOOONG
WOOONG
WOOONG
WOOONG
Have a nice day.


See ya.

Great.
I'll be introducing you to some company execs too.

Master Gunma ....
He never came home last night.

VRRRR


Tsukuba Circuit
GROOO
DUNLOP
ZOOOM
ZOOOOOM
VROOM
VROOM
ZOOM
VROOOOOOM
VRRRRRR
ZOOOOOM
VROOM
VROOM
23
CIRCUIT!
HOT DOG!

ZOOOOOM
Hmph.
ZOOM
Quit messin' around! Blow by him!
Right there! Pass him now!
VROOOOOM
MORIOH CURRY SHOP YAT
You don't got any oncoming cars! What are you afraid of!?
Sheesh, can't you drive!?
Ha ha ha! The driver in that red car sucks. He don't know how to race.
Hmph
MORIOH CURRY SHO YA TIGHT KE

Whoa!
Outta the way!
Hmph ...
てく てく
FLIP FLOP
Hmm?
トロトロ
SHOOM
Red's back.
VRRRRRK
N.R.RACING TEAM
5
!

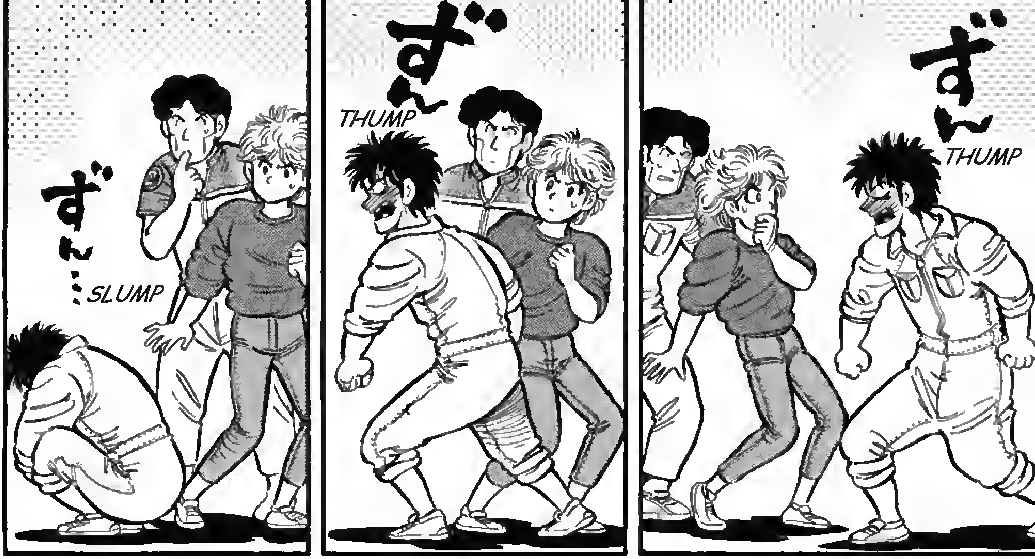
How was it?
Seemed pretty good.
The rear tires slip a little, but setting the suspension a little softer oughta take care of that.
MOTOR SPORTS

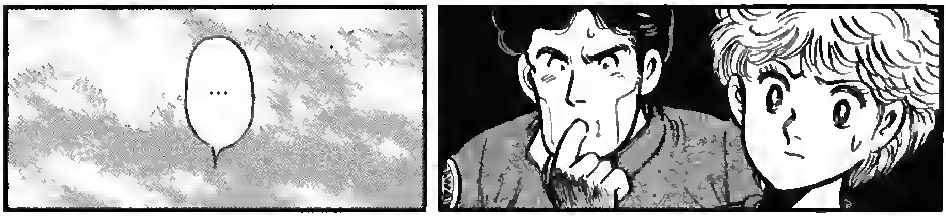
ぬぼおおお
LOOM
Okay, not bad...
Drive the rest at full speed.

Excuse me...
I was cheering you on and you couldn't even pass nobody.
You really sucked out there!
You gotta do better than that!
What do you mean it "seemed pretty good"?
I don't know about the rear tires...
...but it's not the suspension's fault, it's your crappy driving!
Know what I mean?

Arai
I'll take her another lap, Junko.
We heard your little piece of "advice" loud and clear, so you can move along now.
You're in the way here.
FWIP
Huh? Yeah?
Good lord...
MOTOR SPORTS
Apparently skillful driving will do the trick!
Okay!
You've got to be kidding!
Excuse me!?
I'll show you how it's done.
Let me drive this thing!
Wait a minute there.
Hey.
Urrgh...
...
I don't know who you are mister, but I need you to leave now!

Are you high or somethin' kid?
Lemme drive and I'll let him go.
Can't... breathe ...
What is your problem, grabbing him by the throat like that! Hiroshi!
Let go of him! Let go of him this instant!
Huh?
BONK
SWING
Whoa!
Maybe I overdid it...
Urrgh ...


ずん…
SLUMP
ず
THUMP
ずん
THUMP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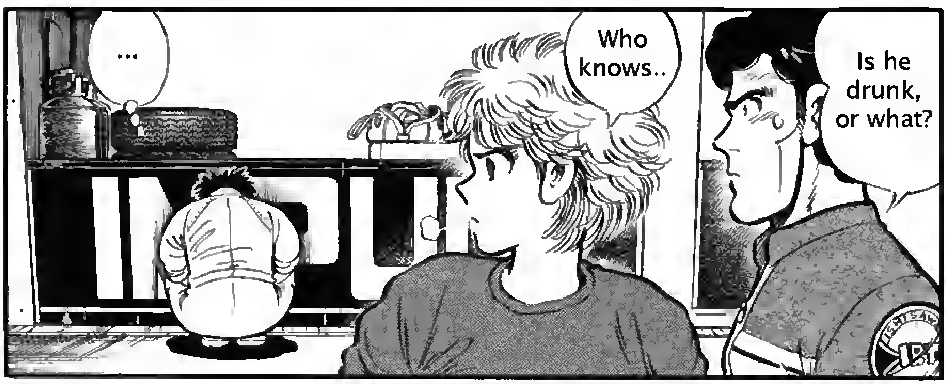

…
Who knows..
Is he drunk, or what?

Are you sure?
Anyway, we're wasting time here. I'll try to get rid of him.

But we're spending a lot of hard-earned money here trying to get some practice time in.
I can understand how much you want to drive in the circuit...
And you're making things difficult.
I tried not to be too hard on you.
Hey. Did that hurt?
To drive in the circuit, you need to pass a course and get your circuit license.
Or a circuit license?
Besides, you look like you're still in high school.
Do you even have a driver's license?
RACING
Oh my god he's passed out!
ど!!
THUMP
ガラ
WOBBLE
Are you listening?

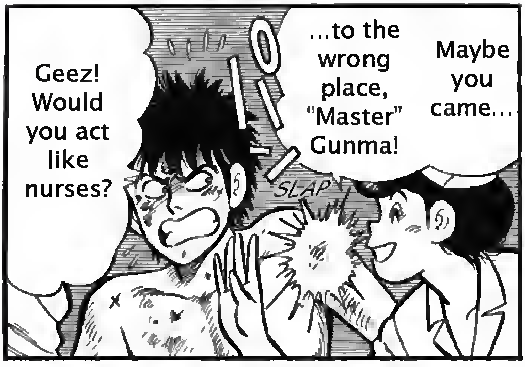
Oh...
Wha...
What was that ...?
VRRRRR
That punk is still here, Junko?
Who are you callin' a punk, fat boy!?
DASH
Get back over here!
ZOOM
Whoaaaa!
Get away from him! Quick!

SCREETCH
Get back here you little...!
Argh!!
What the hell are you doing!?
Shut up!
Ah...
Arai
Is he ch-chasing me?
You asked for it.
ZOOOOOM
ゴオオオ

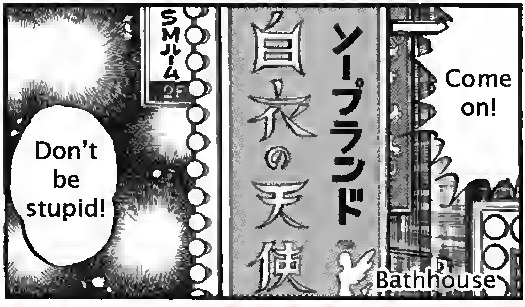
Sweet! No oncoming cars!
There's a backstretch after this hairpin!
What an idiot! He's all over the track!
Dammit!
I knew it! All talk and no skill!
ZOOM
SCREET
Whoa! Dammit!
VROOOOM
Hold it!
If you wanna chase me, then have at it!
I'm gonna drive a lot faster this time!
Sheesh!
VROOM
VROOOM

Who is this guy!?
How the...
He overtook him at the backstretch!
Gah...
The sky is blooood red!
DRIP
DRIP
Blood reeeddd!
ZOOOOOM

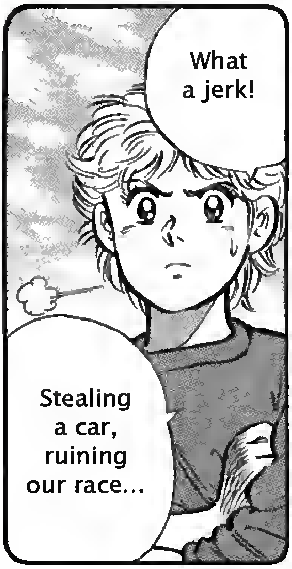
Chapter 7:
Fall Out


Geez! Would you act like nurses?
...to the wrong place, "Master" Gunma!
Maybe you came...
SLAP

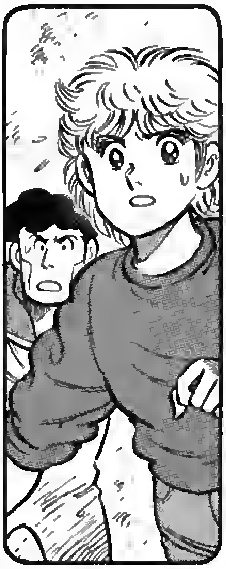
How are you still alive?
You've got bruises everywhere.
Ouch! Be gentle, stupid!
PINCH


Don't be stupid!
Come on!
ソープランド
白衣の天使
SMILE
2F
Bathhouse

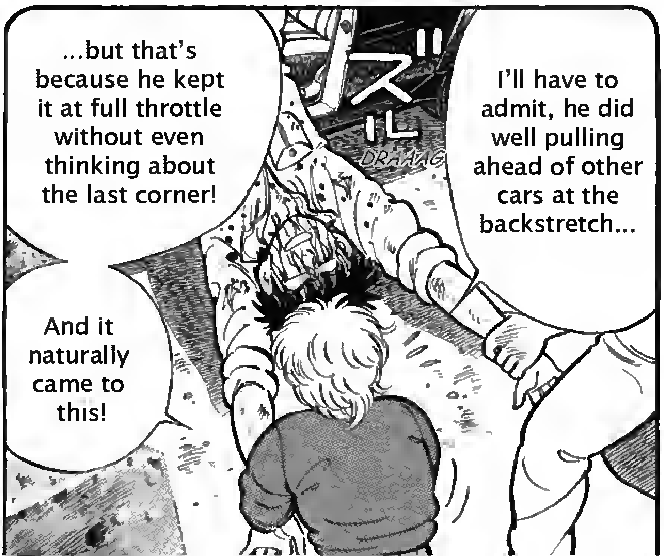
BRIDGEST
Dam-mit
SLUU-URP


What a jerk!
Stealing a car, ruining our race...

That chick...
SLURP
じゅる



I don't know who you are...

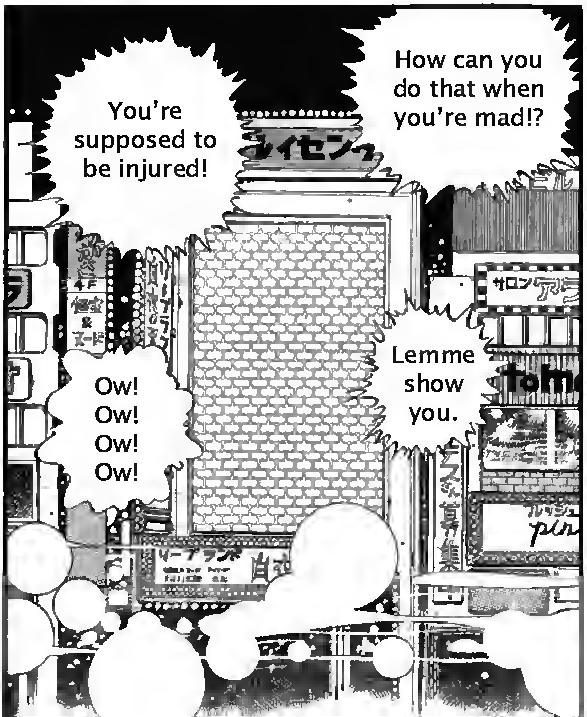

...but that's because he kept it at full throttle without even thinking about the last corner!
And it naturally came to this!
I'll have to admit, he did well pulling ahead of other cars at the backstretch...

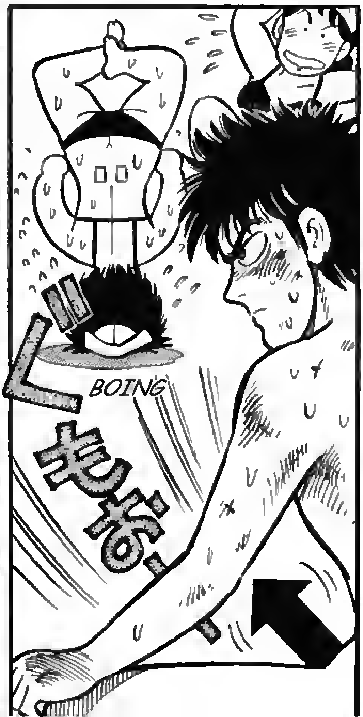
But you're the biggest scumbag I've ever seen!

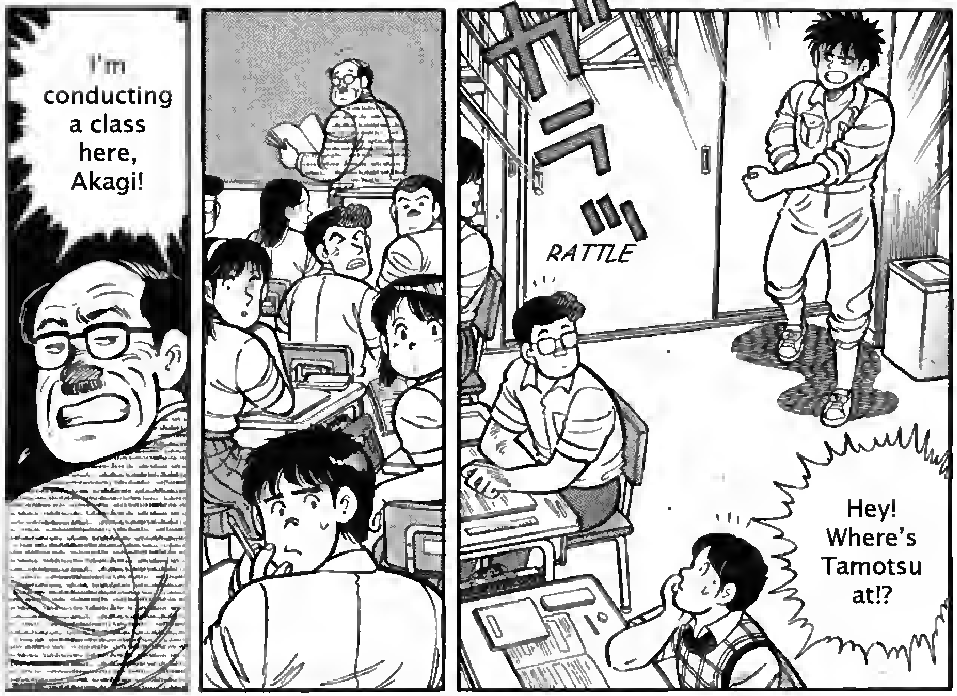
He's really pissed about something
That woman...

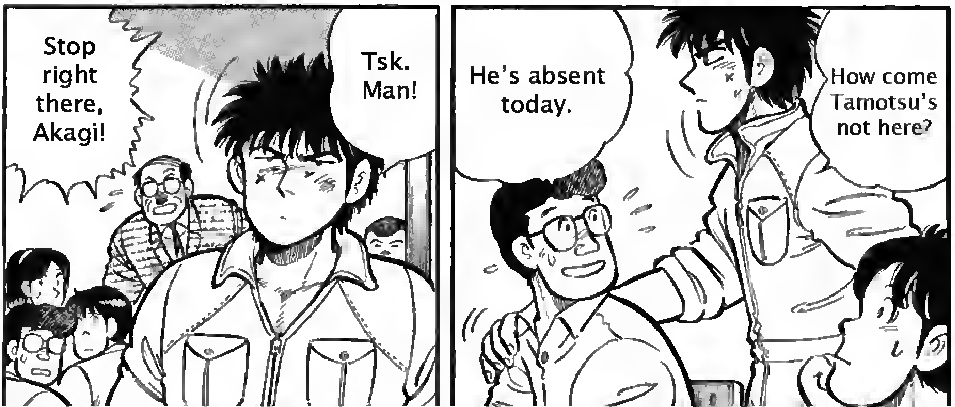
Stay away from our circuit!

...


You're supposed to be injured!
How can you do that when you're mad!?
Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow!
Lemme show you.

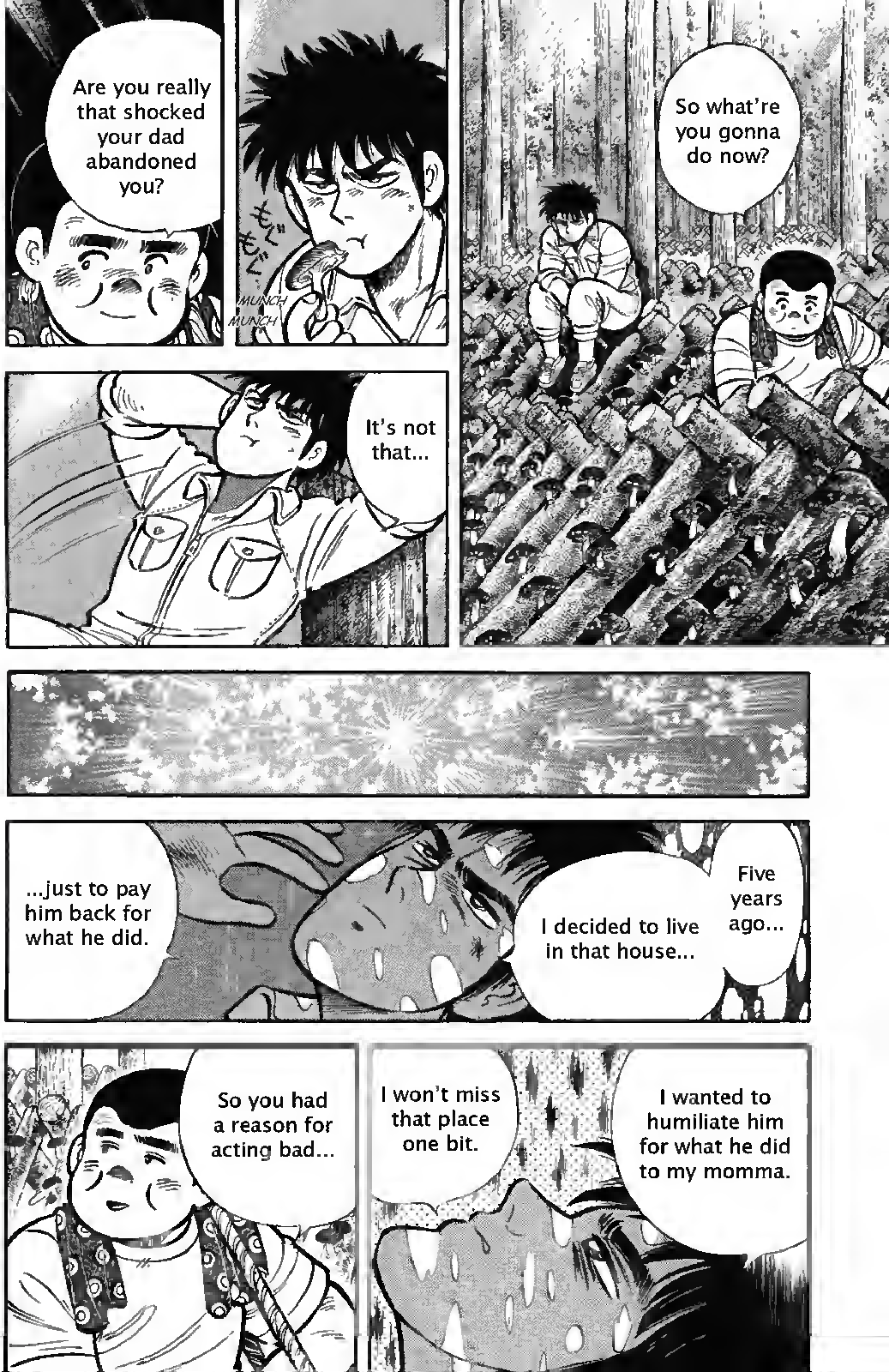

BOING
キリ


I'm conducting a class here, Akagi!
RATTLE
Hey! Where's Tamotsu at!?

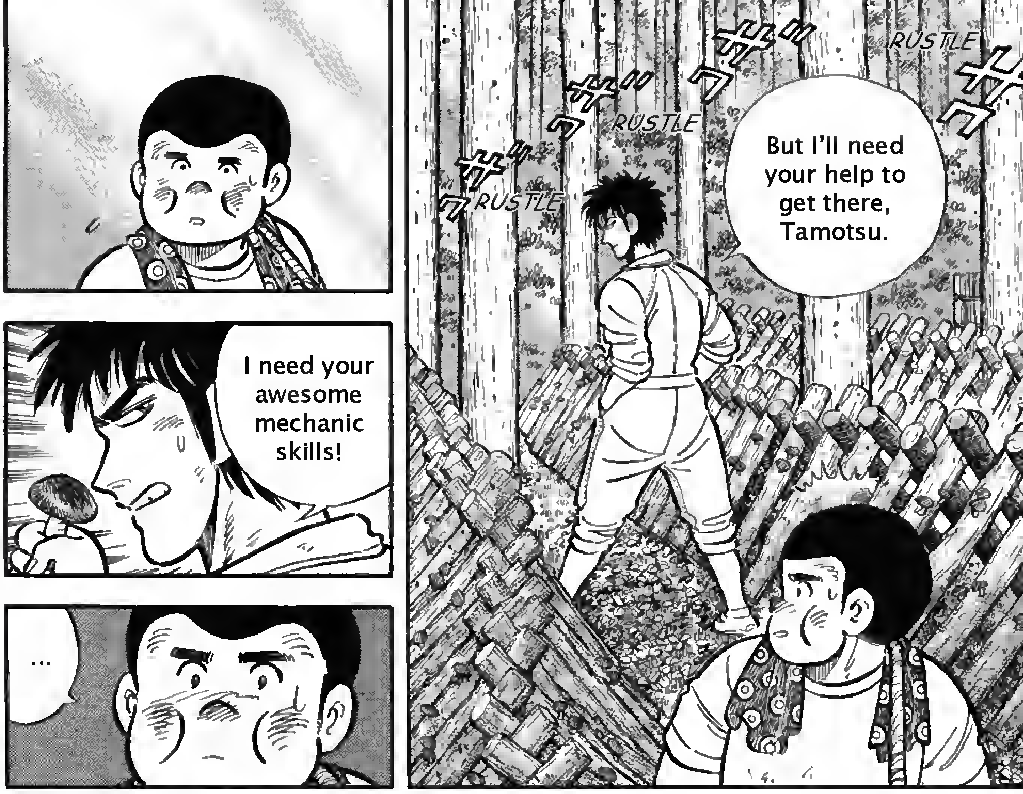

Stop right there, Akagi!
Tsk. Man!
He's absent today.
How come Tamotsu's not here?

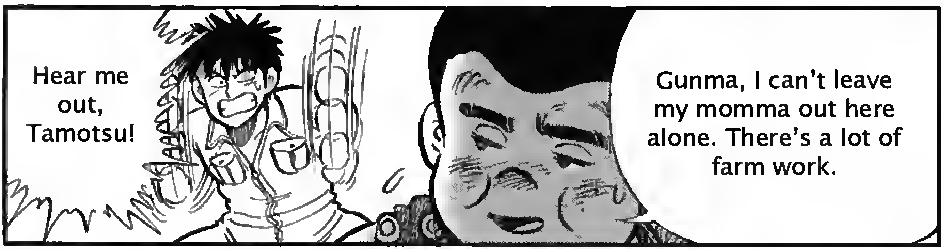
Go to his office immediately!
The principal would like to speak with you.
I know it's sudden, but it seems you're going somewhere far away from here.
Someone from your house brought it in this morning.
Notice of Withdrawal
退学届
Principal's Office
校長室
Well prepared, isn't he?
Damn that old man...
退学届

THUD
CLATTER
CLATTER
Whoa!
SO HE THINKS I'M IN THE WAY!
SLAM
WHOOSH
...some stupid politician.
Just so he can be...
Hmph!


Are you really that shocked your dad abandoned you?
MUNCH MUNCH
It's not that...
So what're you gonna do now?
...just to pay him back for what he did.
I decided to live in that house...
Five years ago...
So you had a reason for acting bad...
I won't miss that place one bit.
I wanted to humiliate him for what he did to my momma.

I can't leave like this, it's too easy for him.
But...
Think of this as your chance to start living a better life.
Tamo-tsu...
Don't do any-thing stupid, Gunma.
...I'm gonna start racing.
When I leave that house...
Like I always say, nobody gets in front of me!
Yup.
Right?
Racing?
Ra...

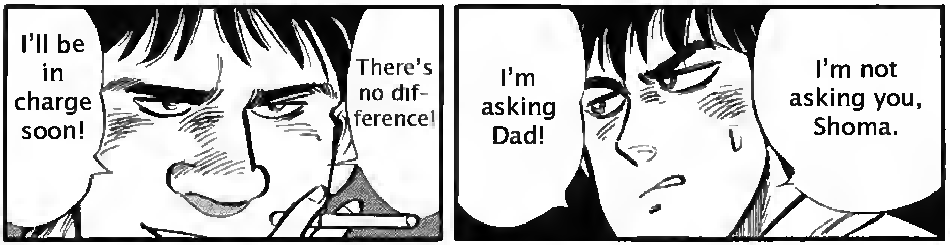

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
But I'll need your help to get there, Tamotsu.
I need your awesome mechanic skills!
...

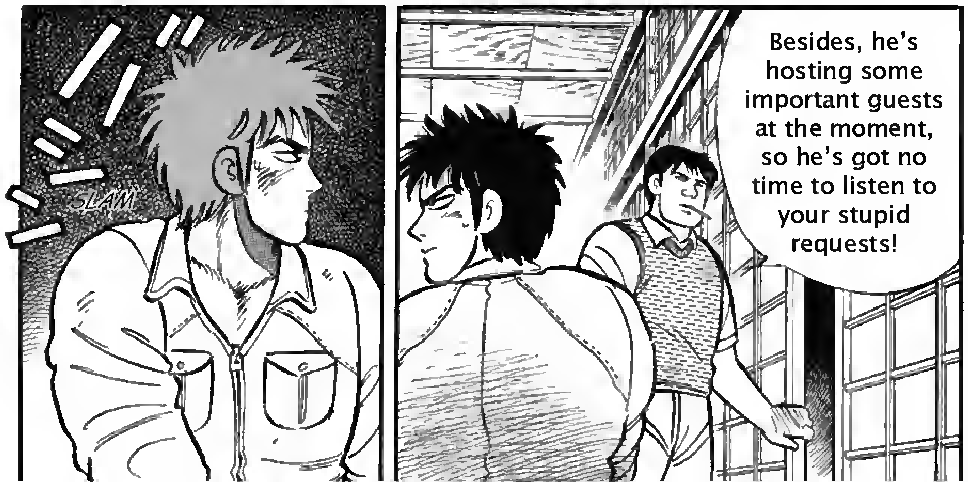

Hear me out, Tamotsu!
Gunma, I can't leave my momma out here alone. There's a lot of farm work.

Gu...
Gunma ...
Money? I can sell a mountain for more than enough!
First of all, you need tens of millions of yen to race! We don't got that kinda money!
No way!

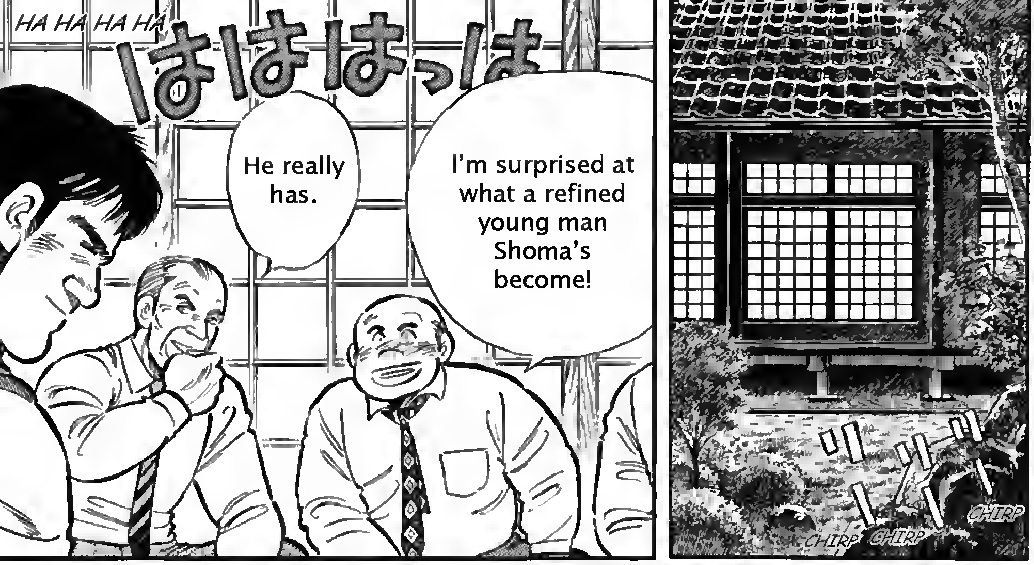
You've got to be kidding me!

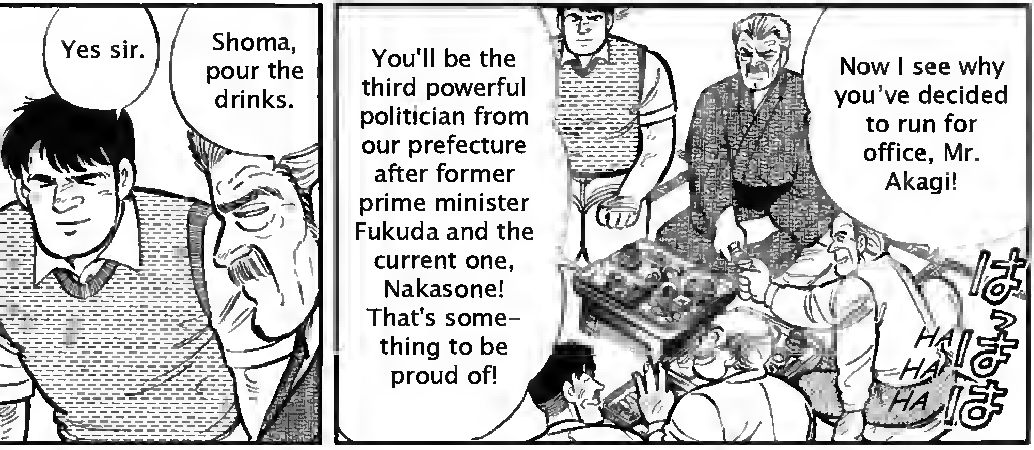
You've brought nothing but shame to the Akagi Family!
I'm speech-less.
You seriously want a piece of our forest land?


I'll be in charge soon!
There's no dif-ference!
I'm asking Dad!
I'm not asking you, Shoma.


SLAM
Besides, he's hosting some important guests at the moment, so he's got no time to listen to your stupid requests!

What's wrong, Yuki...?
Gu... Gunma ...
Are you really leaving?
Don't cry.
Master Shoma told me to pack your things.
How can they be so cruel...
...
SLAM
PIK
Gunma...
Make love to me one last time...
Yeah. So we won't be seein' each other no more.


HA HA HA HA
はははっは
He really has.
I'm surprised at what a refined young man Shoma's become!
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP


Yes sir.
Shoma, pour the drinks.
You'll be the third powerful politician from our prefecture after former prime minister Fukuda and the current one, Nakasone! That's some-thing to be proud of!
Now I see why you've decided to run for office, Mr. Akagi!
はっはっは
HA HA HA!

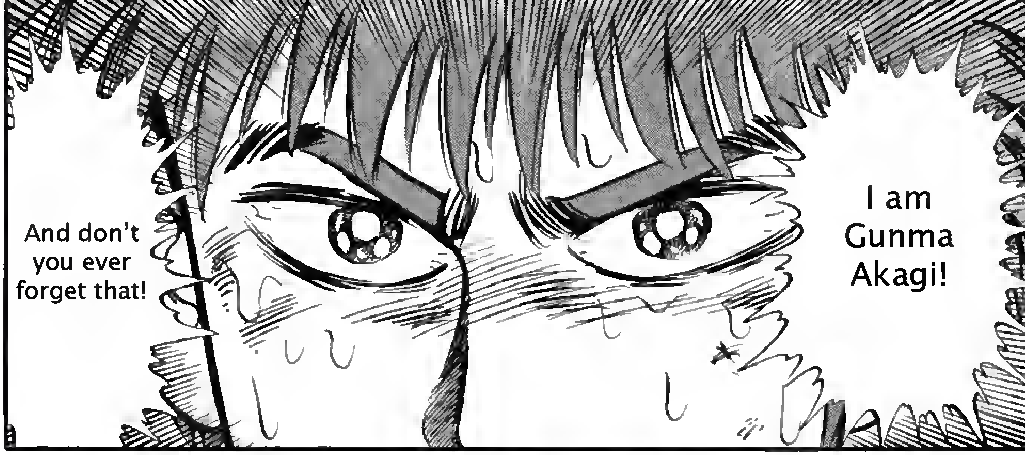
?
あ
Ah...
あ
Ooh...
わっはっは
HA HA HA
Why thank you.

Ohh– hh...
Uh ...
Ahh ...
Mmm ...
あぁ
Yes! yes! yes!
うぅ
Oh, yeah..
ひぅ
Oooh...
あぁ
Oh hell yeah! Oh Yuki! That feels sooo good!
Uh... But the main thing you need to realize about the parliament is...
Huh?
Ohh
I can't hold it!
Yes!
Yes!
Ohh! Ohh! Ohh!
あぅ
Ahh!
Ooh
...
Urgh...
GULP

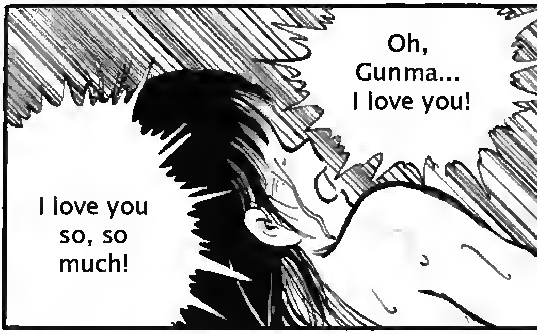
Shoma! Go ahead and open that sliding door!
Excuse me for a moment.
Just open it!
おぉ
Ohh...
Father, I...
But ...
ニヤッ
SWISH
...
おぉ
Ahh.

Gunma!
You rotten little...!
You...
Gunma ...
What is the purpose of this?
TWITCH TWITCH

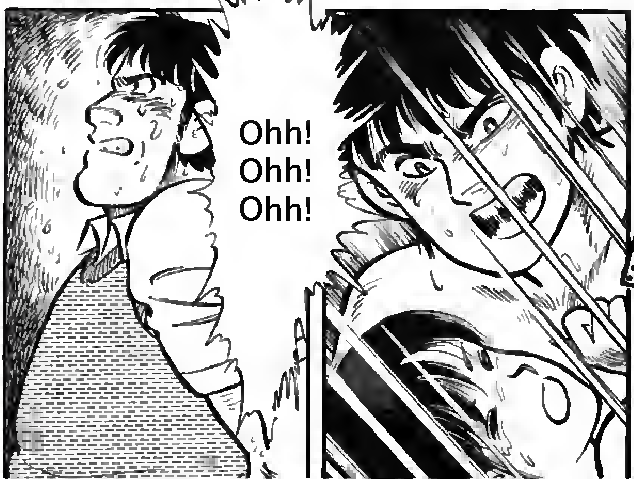
Oh...
I'll be leaving this house soon.
Cut off completely!
Just wanted to show you this!
No purpose, really.
Not only forget about me, but cut me off forever, right!?
Just like you forgot about Momma.
And you'll forget about me!
Take a good long look! Etch it into your brain so you'll never forget!
Well I won't let that happen!
And I ain't no cheap imitation of you!
I'm right here!


And don't you ever forget that!
I am Gunma Akagi!

You filthy animals!
Stop it! Stop this right now!


I love you so, so much!
Oh, Gunma... I love you!

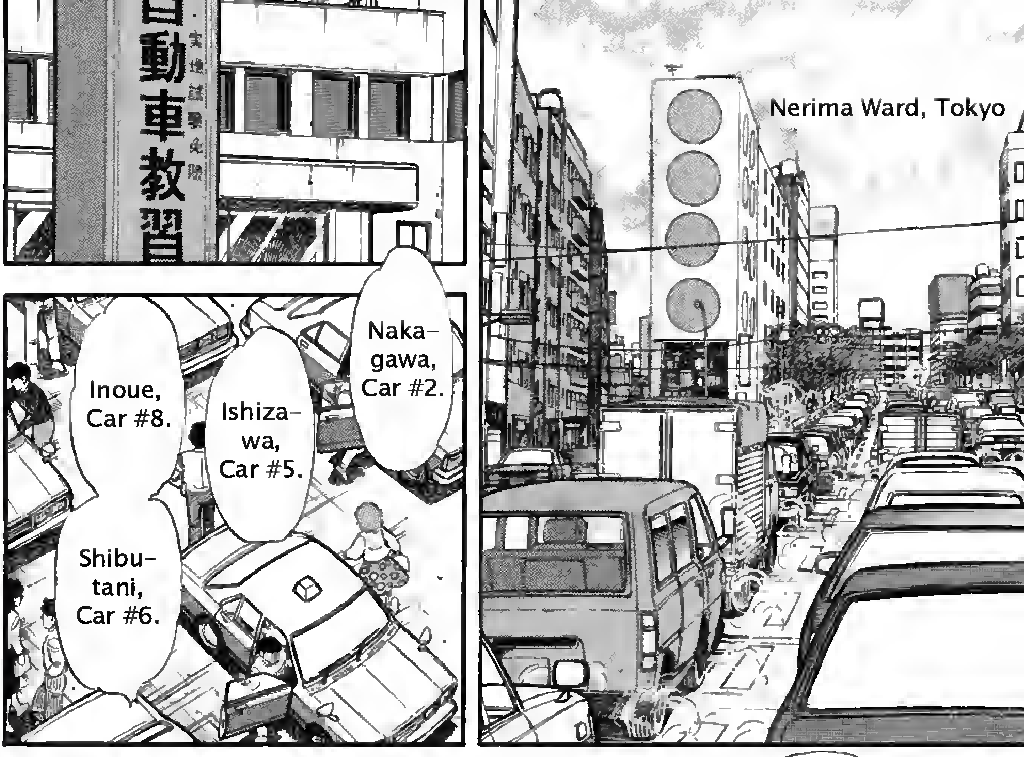
I won't forget.
...


Ohh! Ohh! Ohh!

SLAM

...
BAM!!!
FWOOP
Stop trembling like a fool!
SHAKE SHAKE
...
Come with me, Yuki.
We can both go.
No. I don't want to get in your way, Gunma.
Besides, I...

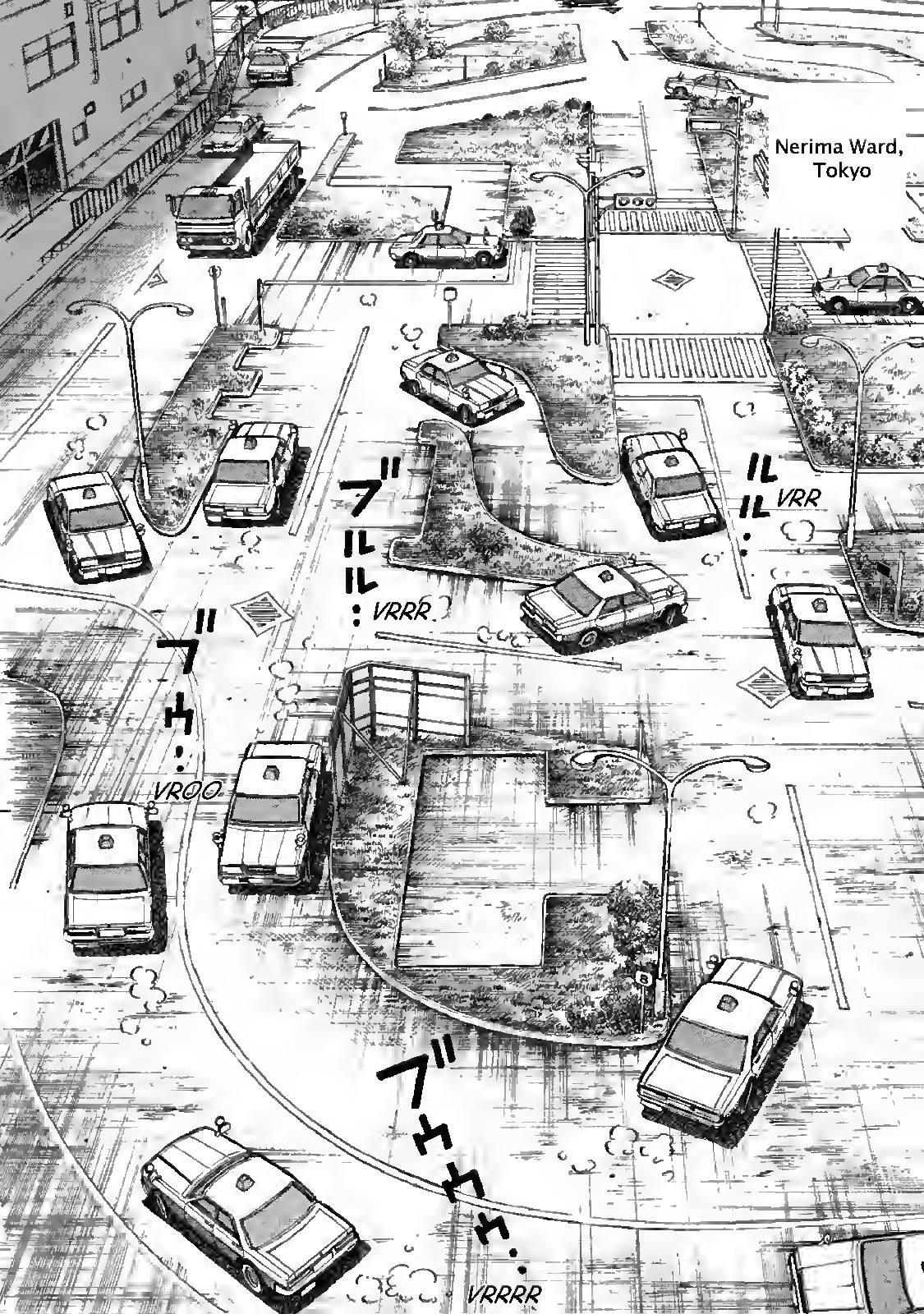
Nikon


自動車教習
Nerima Ward, Tokyo
Naka-
gawa,
Car #2.
Ishiza-
wa,
Car #5.
Inoue,
Car #8.
Shibu-
tani,
Car #6.

Oh...
カッ YAK
Okay then,
you've got
Car #9.
カッ YAK
Akagi. You're
a new student,
aren't you?
Did you finish
the
simulation?
カッ YAK

Oh...
9

Chapter 8: Full Throttle


Nerima Ward,
Tokyo
VRR
VRRR
VROO
VRRRR

AWKWARD
ちょーん
Heh, what a coinci-dence...
Never had you pegged as a driving instructor.
You're pretty versatile. Heh heh...
Driving instructor by day, racer by night, huh?
Excuse me. I don't remem-ber telling you to get in the car.
Let's get started!
CLICK

...
Huh?
After confirming the surrounding area is safe, look behind you once again, then open the door and quickly enter the vehicle! Make sure to fully close and lock the door once you are seated!
Before entering the vehicle, you must always check your surroundings for safety hazards! There may be children playing in the vicinity!
Did I make myself clear, Gunma Akagi?
I'll drive first. You get in the passenger seat!
...
Hey! You forgot the safety check!
CLICK

Ugh...
The speed limit is 30 km per hour on this training course.
Watch carefully as I drive.
!
I can't believe you had the audacity to drive the circuit without a license.
Pick up the pace, moron!
HONK
HONK
Wha ...!
CHOMP
If you want a license you will refrain from such poor manners!
Would you just stop!?

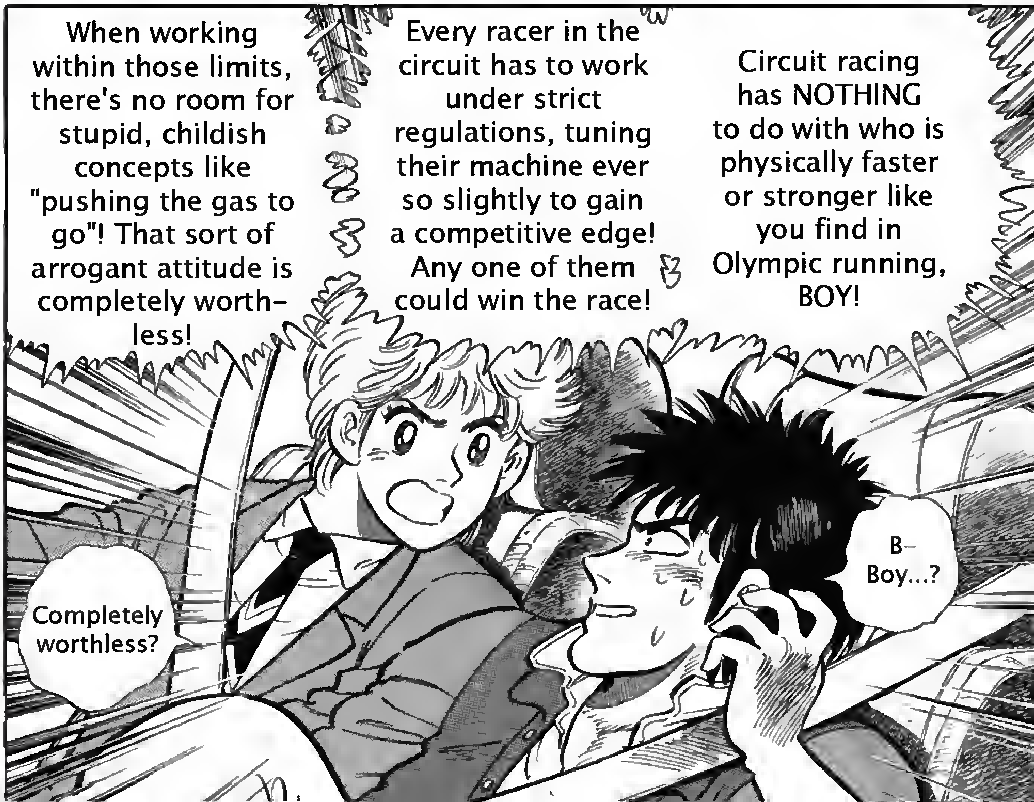
すぽっ
POP
…
ゴゴゴゴ
SWIF
SWIF
Hmph
…
I don't care if this is the beginner's course. There's no way I'm driving behind those morons.
It's like a freakin' turtle convention. Come on!
VRRRR
16
練習中
BRRRR
What's up with these people?
…?

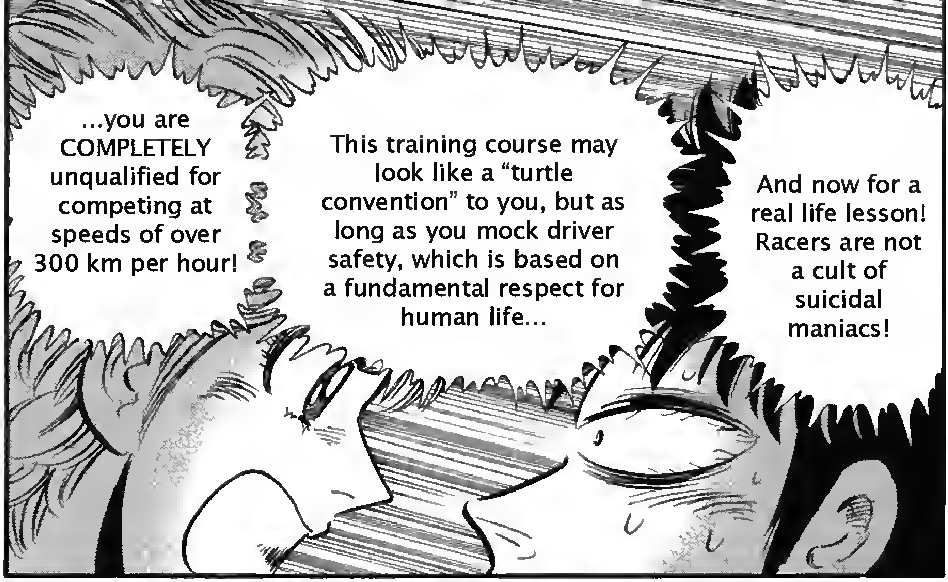
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
VRRR
Push the gas to go, push the brake to stop! It ain't rocket science!
Hey granny! Loosen up a little, huh?
Get movin' already!
When I saw you in Tsukuba, you seemed pretty obsessed with racing.
If she can't figure it out, maybe she oughta go home and play with her grandkids! Ha ha ha!
I'm gonna race! That's why I'm suffering through this crap to get my license.
Yup.
You just watch! Before long, nobody'll be able to stay in front of me!

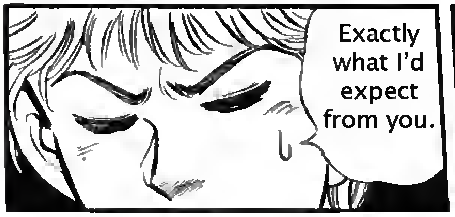
Ha ha ha ha ha! Hee hee hee!
Ha ha!

You don't have the slightest clue about racing!
What do you mean?

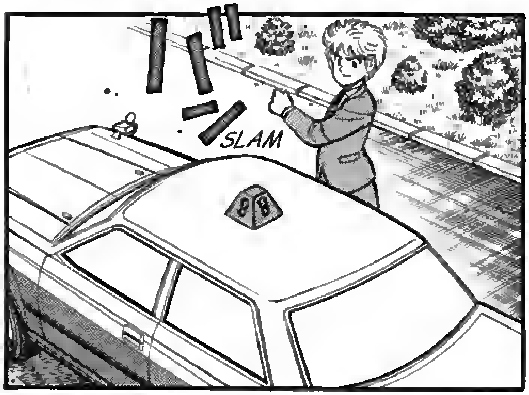
You'll never be a racer!
きっぱり!
SHING
Sorry.

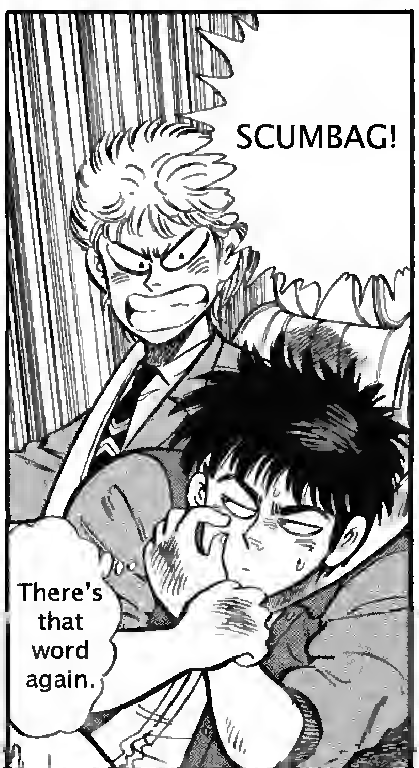

When working within those limits, there's no room for stupid, childish concepts like "pushing the gas to go"! That sort of arrogant attitude is completely worthless!
Every racer in the circuit has to work under strict regulations, tuning their machine ever so slightly to gain a competitive edge! Any one of them could win the race!
Circuit racing has NOTHING to do with who is physically faster or stronger like you find in Olympic running, BOY!
Completely worthless?
B-Boy...?

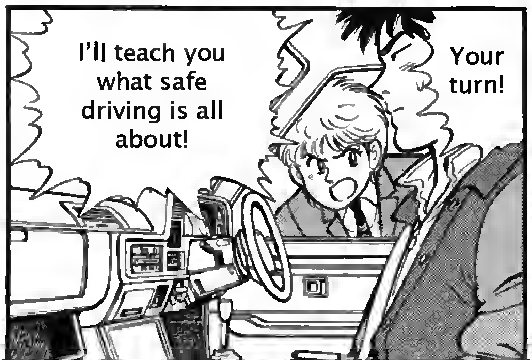

...you are COMPLETELY unqualified for competing at speeds of over 300 km per hour!
This training course may look like a "turtle convention" to you, but as long as you mock driver safety, which is based on a fundamental respect for human life...
And now for a real life lesson! Racers are not a cult of suicidal maniacs!

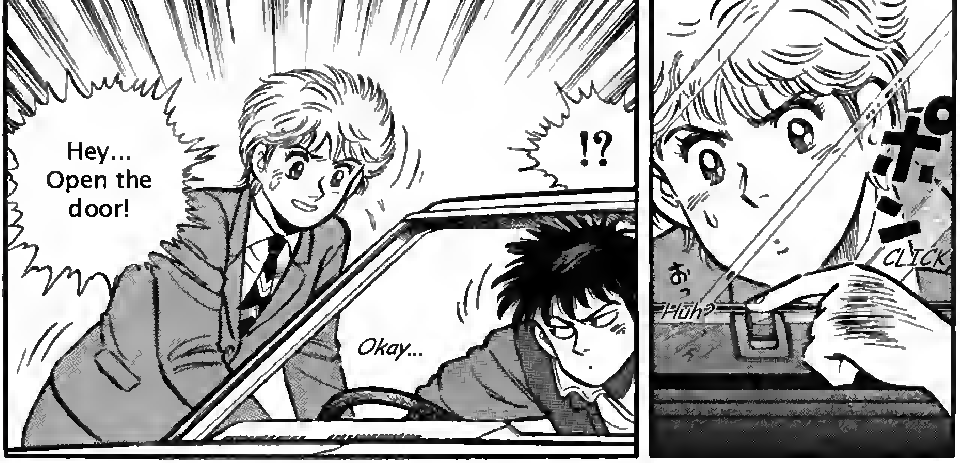

Exactly what I'd expect from you.

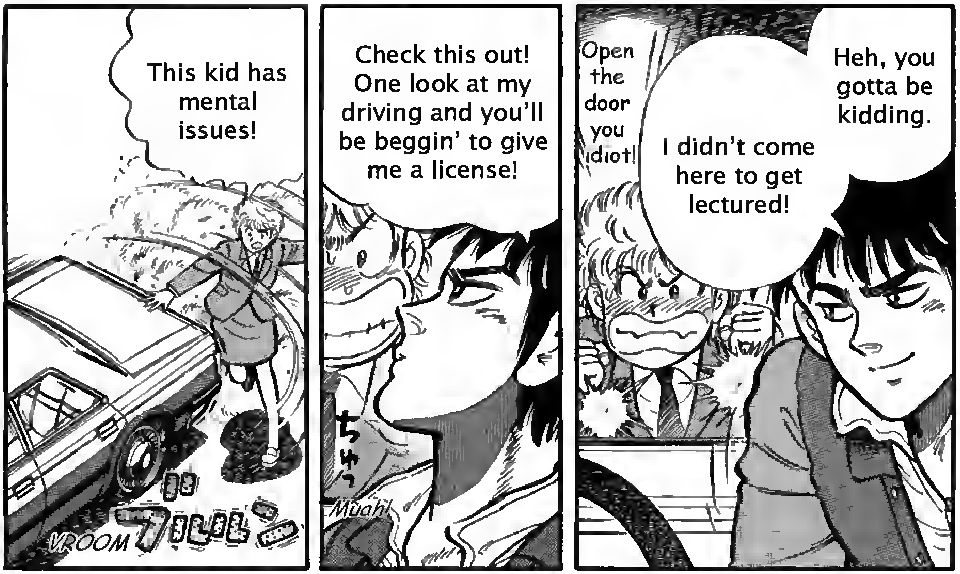
The readers are getting bored.
Don't talk so much.

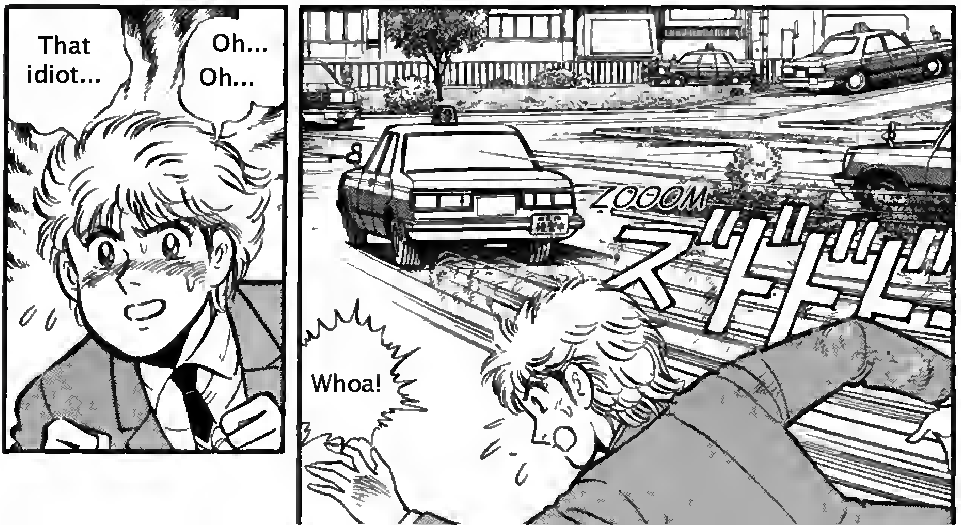

SLAM


SCUMBAG!
There's that word again.


I'll teach you what safe driving is all about!
Your turn!

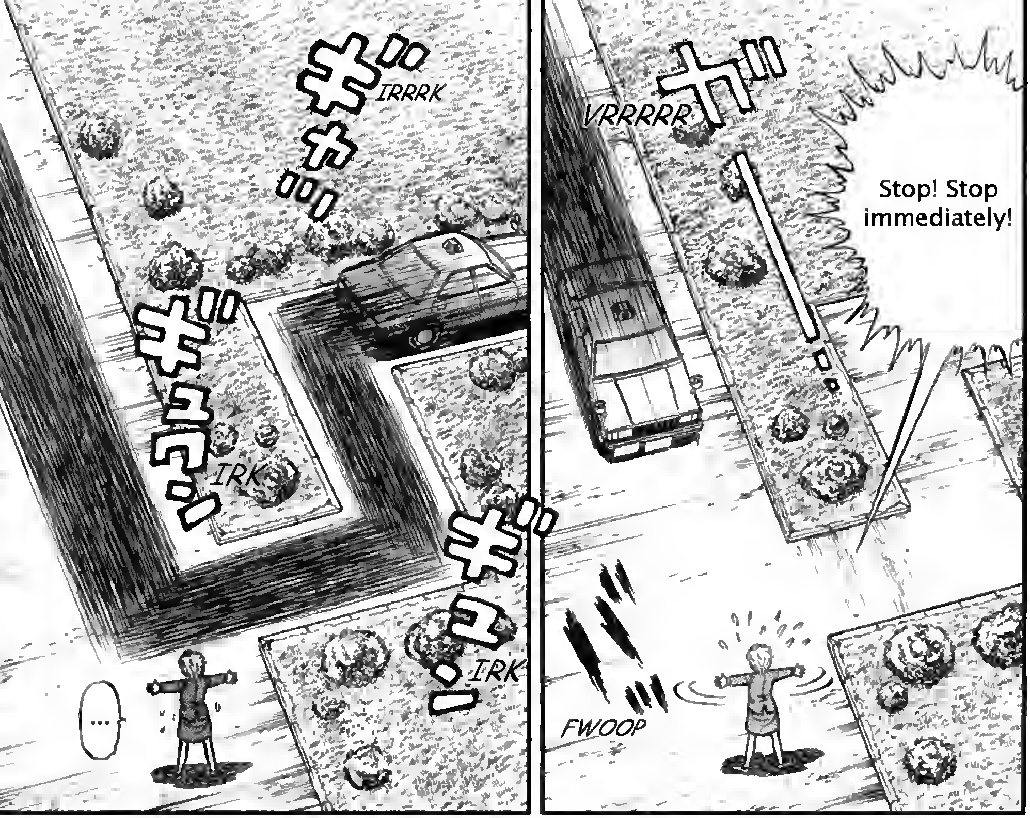

Hey... Open the door!
!?
Okay...
CLICK
Huh?

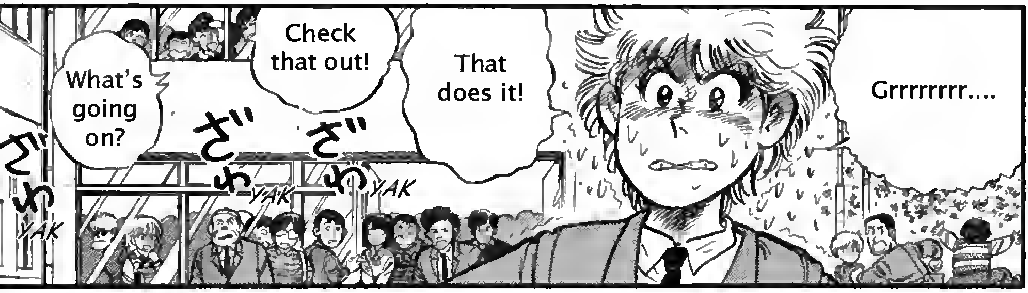

This kid has mental issues!
VROOM
Check this out! One look at my driving and you'll be beggin' to give me a license!
Muah!
Open the door you idiot!
I didn't come here to get lectured!
Heh, you gotta be kidding.

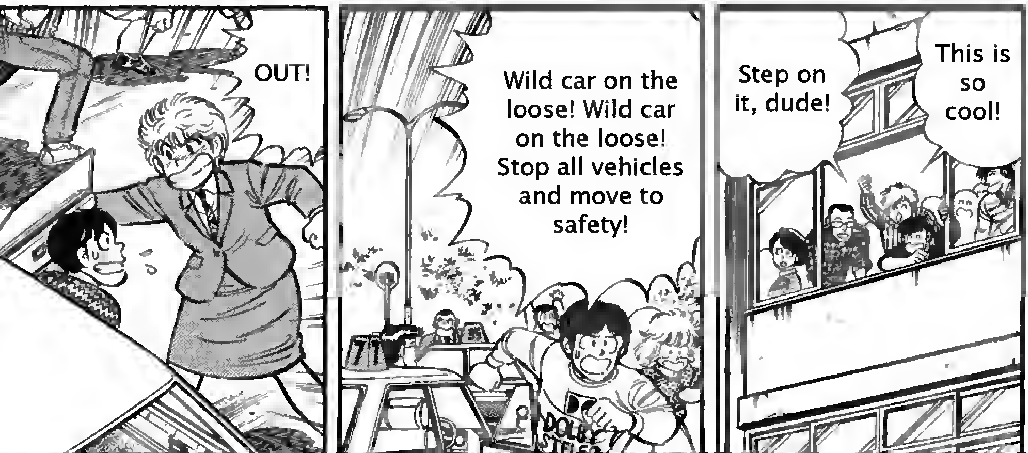

That idiot...
Oh... Oh...
ZOOOM
Whoa!

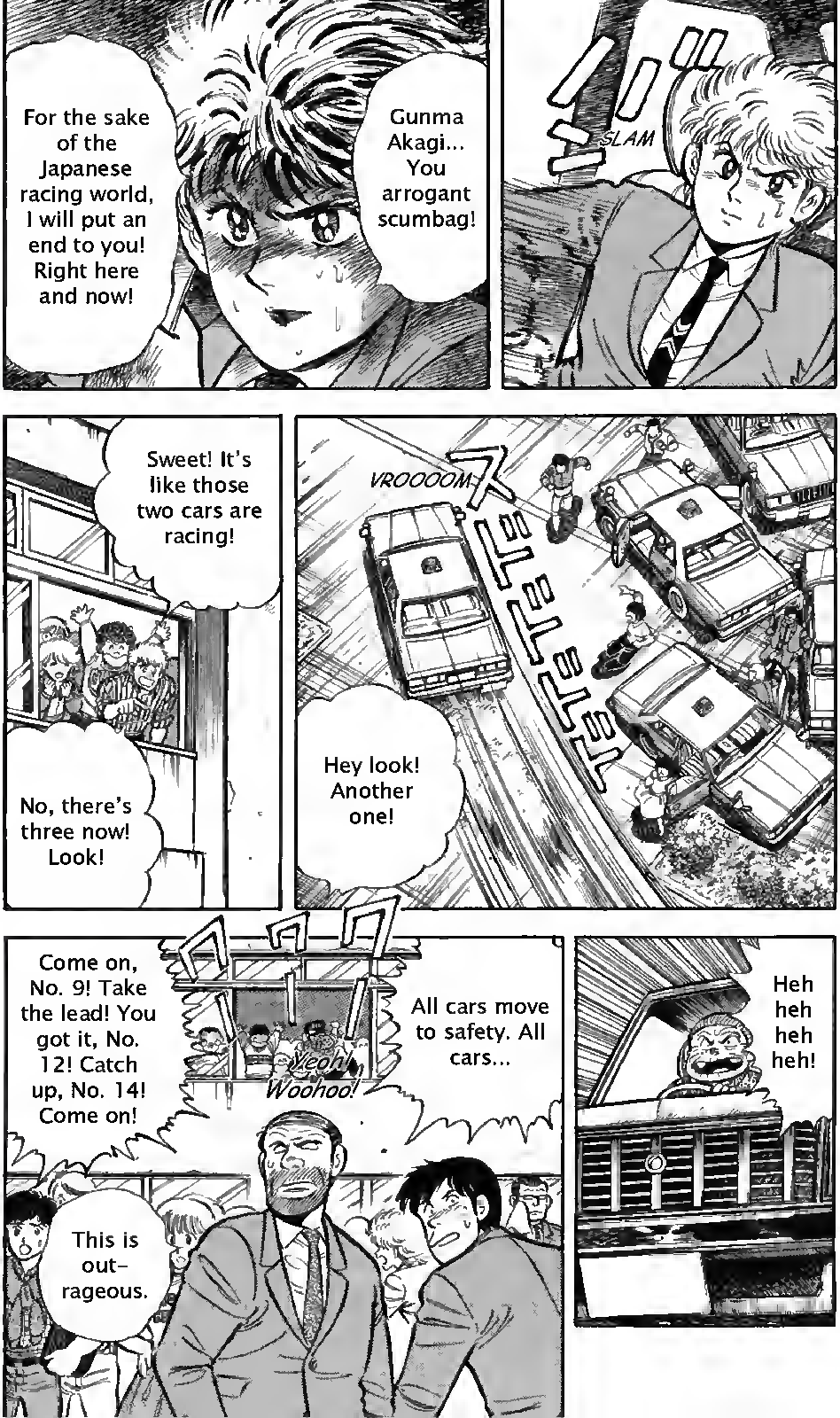
VROOM
Outta the way turtles!
I'll show you how it's done!
VROOOM
Huh?
YAKYAK
This is bad.
VROOOM
Whoa!
Whoa!
SCREETCH
DASH
I've got to stop him!

VROOM
What's that car doing!?
Stop on this line! Right here!
How many times do I have to say it, ma'am?
SCREETCH
Oh!
Go knit a sweater, grandma!
SHOOM
Get everyone off this course!
He's gonna kill somebody!
My goodness, that young man just started today and he's driving quite well.
KACHINK
Now for some real driving!
That instructor was getting on my nerves too, yapping away at me in the passenger seat!
How inspiring.


IRRRK
IRK
IRK
...
VRRRRR
Stop! Stop immediately!
FWOOP


What's going on?
Check that out!
That does it!
Grrrrrrrr....
YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK

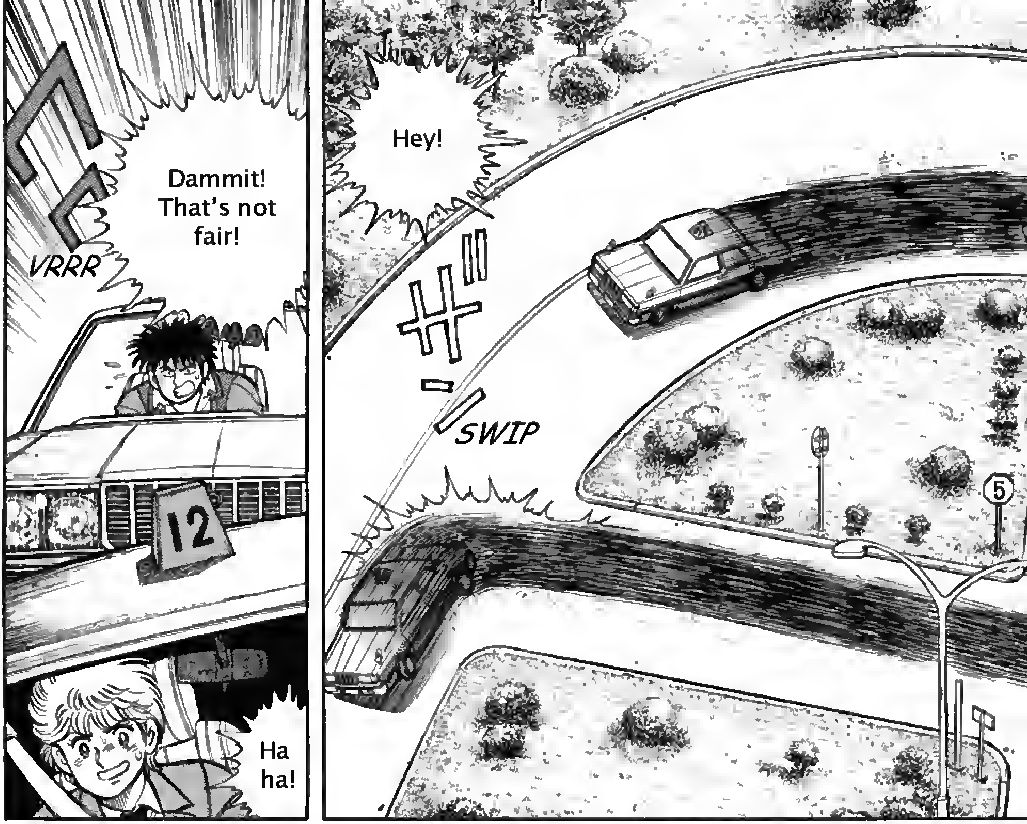

OUT!
Wild car on the loose! Wild car on the loose! Stop all vehicles and move to safety!
Step on it, dude!
This is so cool!

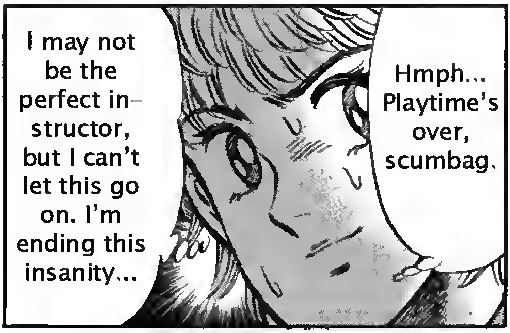

For the sake of the Japanese racing world, I will put an end to you! Right here and now!
Gunma Akagi... You arrogant scumbag!
SLAM
Sweet! It's like those two cars are racing!
No, there's three now! Look!
VROOOOM
Hey look! Another one!
Come on, No. 9! Take the lead! You got it, No. 12! Catch up, No. 14! Come on!
Yeah!
Woohoo!
All cars move to safety. All cars...
This is out-rageous.
Heh heh heh heh!

VOOOM
!!
VOOOM
She's gainin' on me!
This is gettin' good!
...
I'll pass you up, young man!
Heh heh heh! I feel so alive!
VOOOM

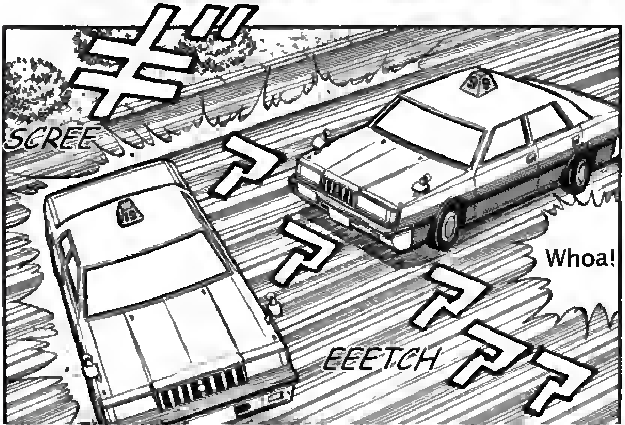
キュッ
SCREETCH
High-speed S-curve!
キュッキュッ
SCREEE
FIZZZZZ
ドドド

It's over.
He's got no place to turn off!
Hey! Not bad, instructor!
ギャアー
SCREETCH
Now's my chance to take the lead!
Oh dear ...
WOOOH
Ha!
Whoa!


Dammit! That's not fair!
VRRR
12
Ha ha!
Hey!
SWIP
5


I may not be the perfect instructor, but I can't let this go on. I'm ending this insanity...
Hmph... Playtime's over, scumbag.

Think you're pretty hot, huh? I'll pass you!


SCREE
Whoa!
EEETCH

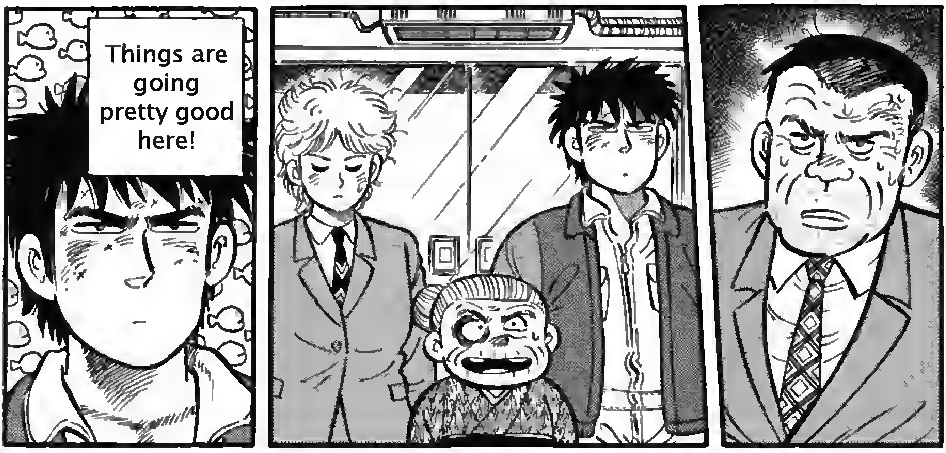
NOW!
BAK

キキーッ
SCREETCH
12 12
グワシャ
SMAAASH
12
グシャガーン
KRAASHHH
12
練習中

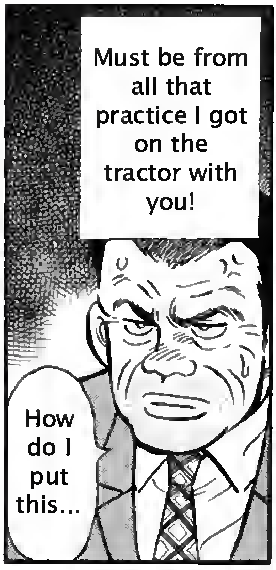
Young man!
YAK
YAK
We've got an accident!
Oh my!
YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK
Are you all right!?
What am I saying ...
Oh, I like this boy!

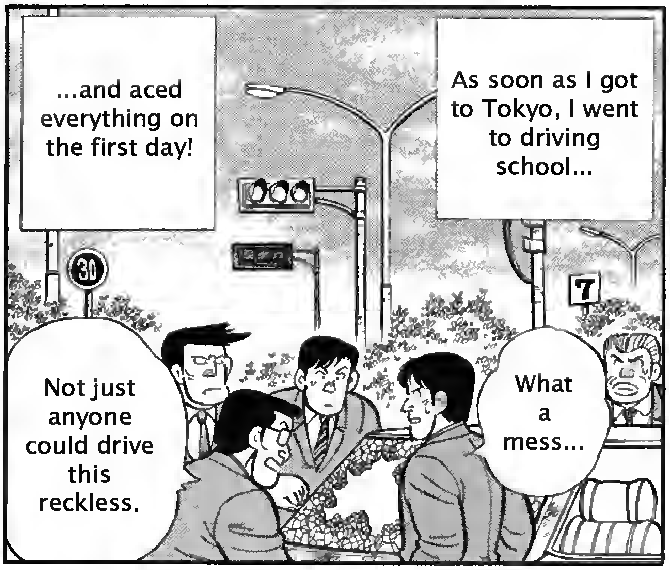
最低男
Chapter 9:
Fish Story

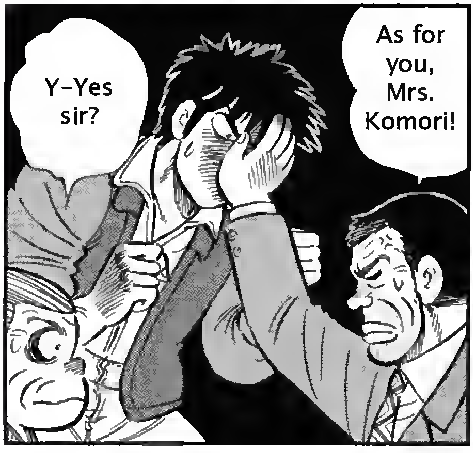
Dear Tamotsu, How are you doing?
カタ TAP
カタ TAP
カタ TAP
カタ TAP
会計
Driving School Admission

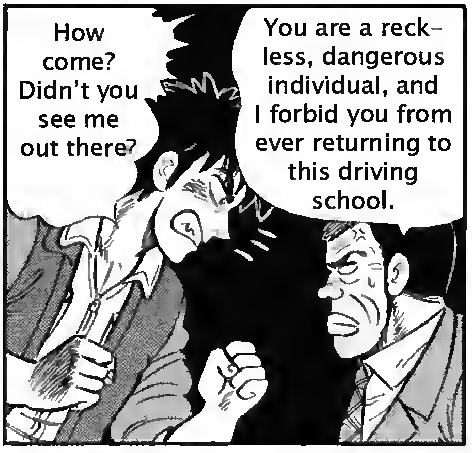

Things are going pretty good here!

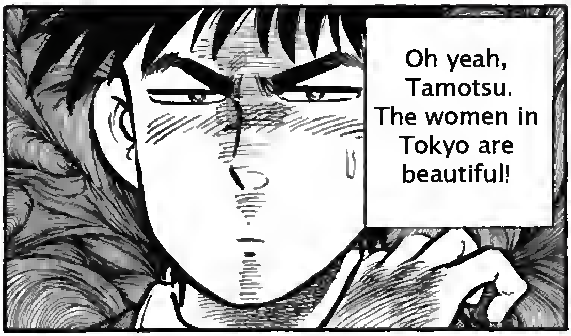
わい
YAK
わい
YAK
わい
YAK
Let me tell you about it a little.


Must be from all that practice I got on the tractor with you!
How do I put this...

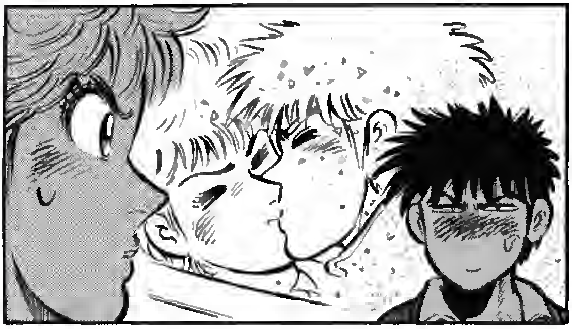

...and aced everything on the first day!
As soon as I got to Tokyo, I went to driving school...
30
7
Not just anyone could drive this reckless.
What a mess...


Y-Yes sir?
As for you, Mrs. Komori!

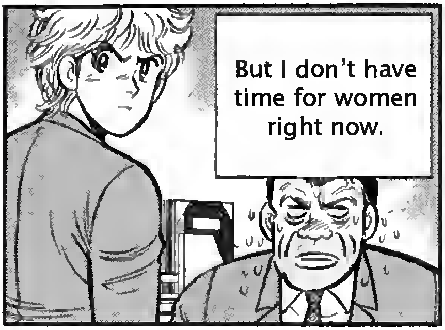

How come? Didn't you see me out there?
You are a reckless, dangerous individual, and I forbid you from ever returning to this driving school.


Oh yeah, Tamotsu. The women in Tokyo are beautiful!

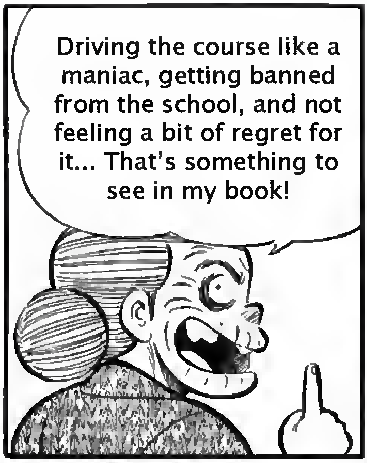
You're quite advanced in age now, and I don't feel you need to drive at this stage in your life...
It's better to be safe than sorry.



And I think she's pretty much in love with me.
Die scum-bag!
I kind of hooked up with this driving instructor already. She's stubborn, but slammin' hot.

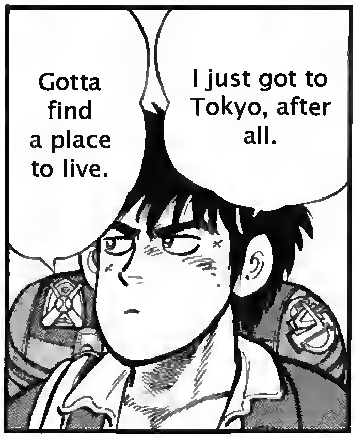

But I don't have time for women right now.

There's other driving schools out there!
Heh, your loss!
はは・・
Ha ha ha!


Driving the course like a maniac, getting banned from the school, and not feeling a bit of regret for it... That's something to see in my book!

Nothing to see here, idiots!
Outta the way! Outta the way!
Ha ha ha. I'd beg to differ on that!

Shut up you old bag!

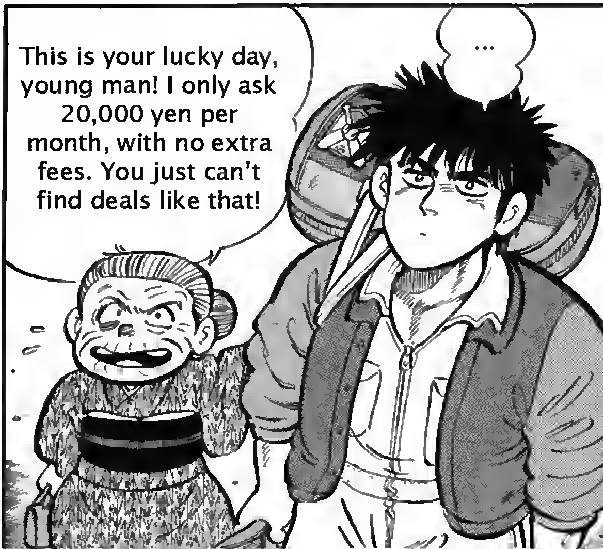

Gotta find a place to live.
I just got to Tokyo, after all.

Why didn't you say so?
Really!?

It's good to be active at your age! Come over for some tea!
Oh, but I like you, "scumbag"!
Driving School
自動車教習所
Forget it, granny. I don't got time for that.

はり 入山治療院
Here we are!
小森荘

I still have two rooms available, and you can pick your favorite. Let's go inside!


This is your lucky day, young man! I only ask 20,000 yen per month, with no extra fees. You just can't find deals like that!
...

Comes with a bed, huh?
CREAK
Do you like it?
This is where my late husband and I used to sleep. It gets the most sunlight.
I knew you'd like it.
Not bad...
THUD
That's where the old man took his last breath.
I'll take the other room.
Um...
...
Yes, the old man and I had a lot of good times in that bed.

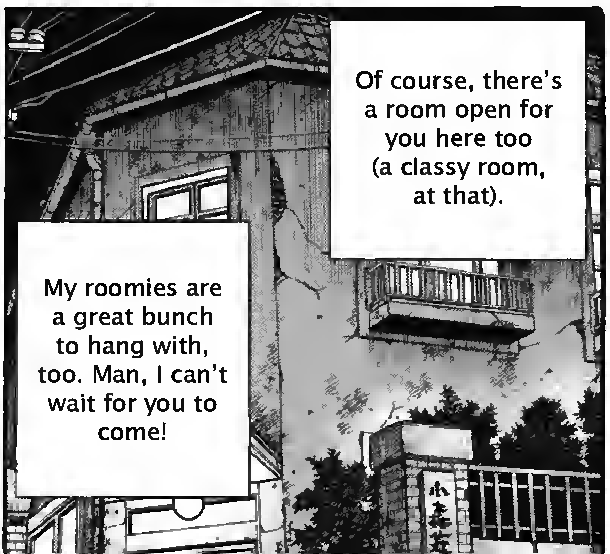
Whoa...
Drink more!
It restores that passion I had long ago.
When the old man passed away and left me alone in this big house...
I love energetic young people.
トクトクトク
GULULUL
Their vibrant energy makes me feel so alive.
You've already met her.
My niece lives here, on the first floor. She's a spirited one.
Don't you got any family?
I've got more like you living here too. I'll introduce you later.
I decided I wanted to rent rooms to energetic young people.
Drink some more.
I'm home, Granny. Is dinner ready?
Oh my, is it that time already?
Ha ha ha! I'll introduce you later.
Maybe we passed in the hall...?
ドカドカ
STOMP
STOMP
PAT
PAT

That's right. He just arrived in Tokyo today.
Oh, a new tenant?
...
Uh-oh ...
Oh, then you've met?
That scum-bag we saw in Tsukuba!
It's... it's HIM!
Yes, yes. The one you were racing against at driving school!
Granny, when you said I already met your niece living on the first floor... Would that be...

And Auntie was just out of control...
I'm home!
That stupid, lowlife scumbag! I swear if we cross paths again...!
BANG
ROLL
Of course, I never want to see him again though.
CRAAAAASH
I took a lot of heat from my boss...
SLAM
Auntie, what were you thinking!?
'Sup.

Anyway, I found a place to live buddy. Only thing left is for you to come!
Arrrgh!!
ぴょーん
BOING

Get over here quick, Tamotsu. Your skill, my talent, and a mountain's worth of money will make us the fastest team in the world!
I'm counting on you!
To Tamotsu... fastest team in the world! Gunma Akagi


Of course, there's a room open for you here too (a classy room, at that).
My roomies are a great bunch to hang with, too. Man, I can't wait for you to come!

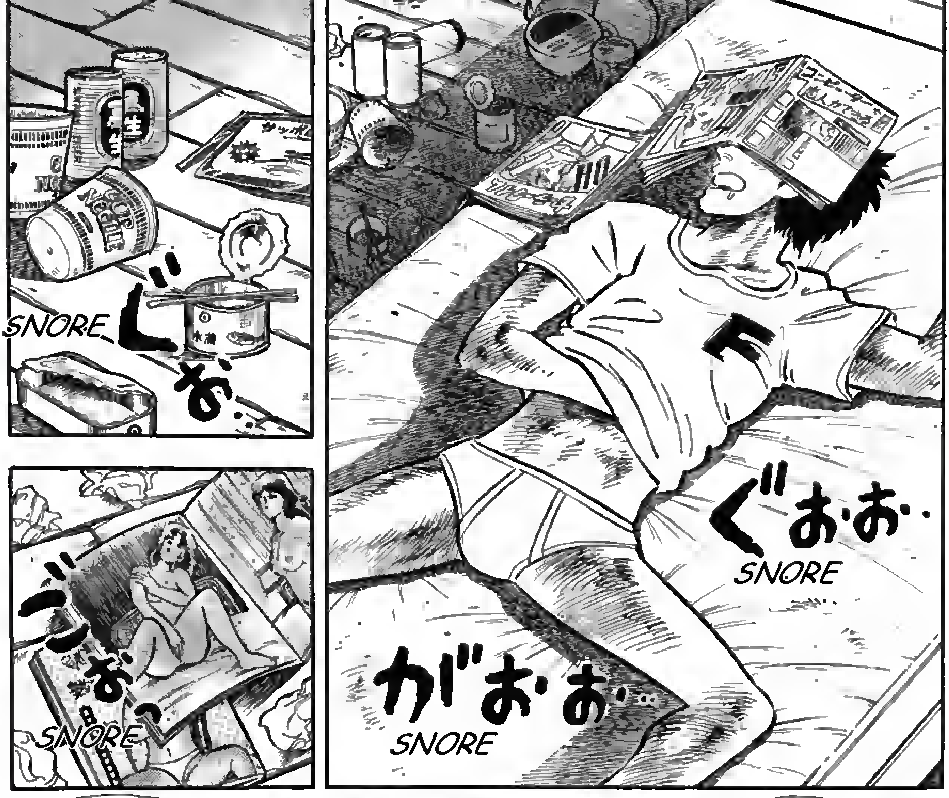
...
...
Ha ha... I was just looking for a screw-driver. But it's fine.
What are you doing in here?
Oh... Oh really...
Momma, the person from JA's on the phone.
...
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
CLICK
Of course, I'll be there.
Thank you so much.

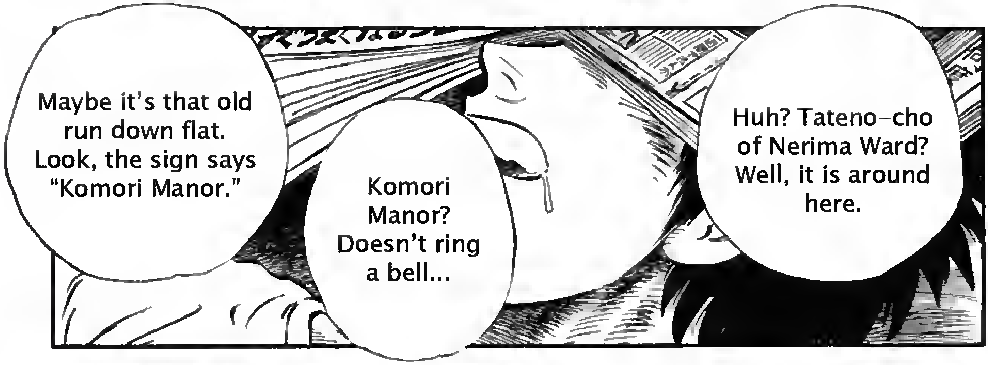
He kicked out one of his sons so he could run, you know...
HEH HEH
SNIP
So he's finally gonna run for office...
SNIP
Oh, they asked me to go see Mr. Akagi at his political speech.
What did the JA want?
SNIP
Gunma's much better off now. He can live life his own way over there.
Me? Come on...
Aren't you lonely, Tamo-tsu?
GULP
What about you?
But...
SSSSSS
That's what you want, isn't it?
Fiddling with your mac-hines...
Come on, Momma. You know how I am.

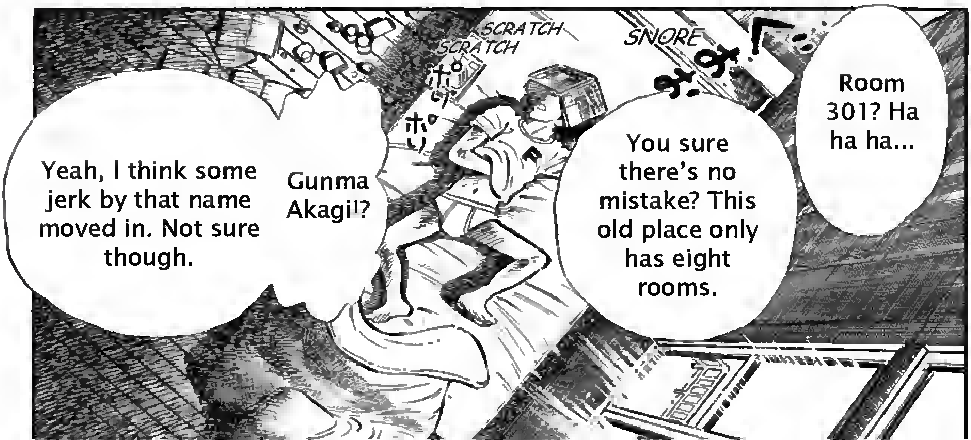
No, that's not what I meant.
!
You're talkin' about Daddy, aren't you...
Somebody who gets too wrapped up in his machines won't become a decent person.
I'm... I'm fine.
But soon he was drunk with pride, and that led to a dangerous mix of drinking, gambling, and prostitutes. Eventually he fixed machines as a drifter, and found another woman...
Praised by everyone for his mechanical skills...
He was terrible, that's for sure.
What are you tryin' to say?
Momma...
Not yours.
But that's his story.

If you don't like fiddlin' with machines, that's all well and good.
Listen carefully, son.
You... read that?
M-Momma ...
Don't you ever betray your friend!
But if that's where your passion is, and you made some sort of promise with Gunma...
You may not think much of your daddy...
Don't get so excited, Momma! I haven't made no promise with Gunma, and I don't think nothin' about Daddy, either way!
That's what a man would do, Tamotsu!
But you can be a better person than him, both as a human being and as a mechanic. You can show him!
SPOOT

No confi-dence?
Really ...
But I know I can't be doin' that right now.
And most of all, I don't got the confidence...
I do like playing around with machinery, and I'd like to make a living at it someday.
I just got one more thing to say.
Okay then.
Oof...
If I was still a young woman...
I'd fall head over heels for someone like your daddy.
Not like you...


SNORE
ぐお…
ぐお…お…
SNORE
ごお…
SNORE
がお…お…
SNORE

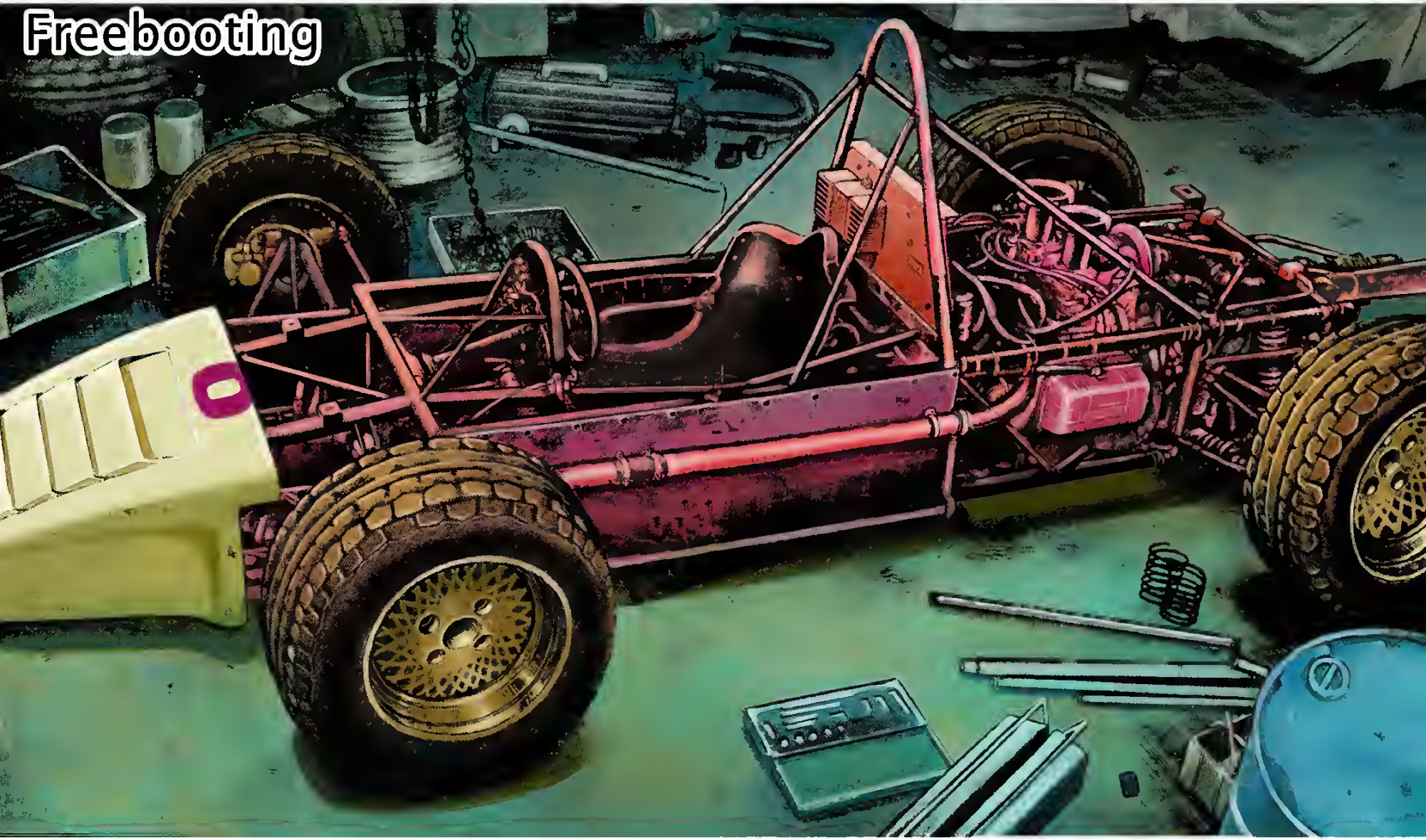

Maybe it's that old run down flat. Look, the sign says "Komori Manor."
Komori Manor? Doesn't ring a bell...
Huh? Tateno-cho of Nerima Ward? Well, it is around here.

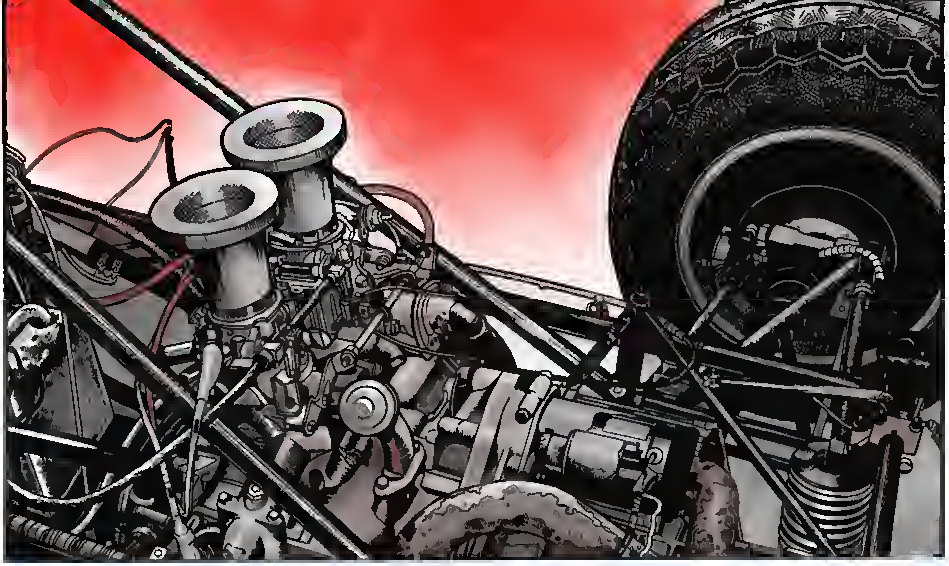

SCRATCH SCRATCH
ポリ ポリ
SNORE
Yeah, I think some jerk by that name moved in. Not sure though.
Gunma Akagi!?
You sure there's no mistake? This old place only has eight rooms.
Room 301? Ha ha ha...

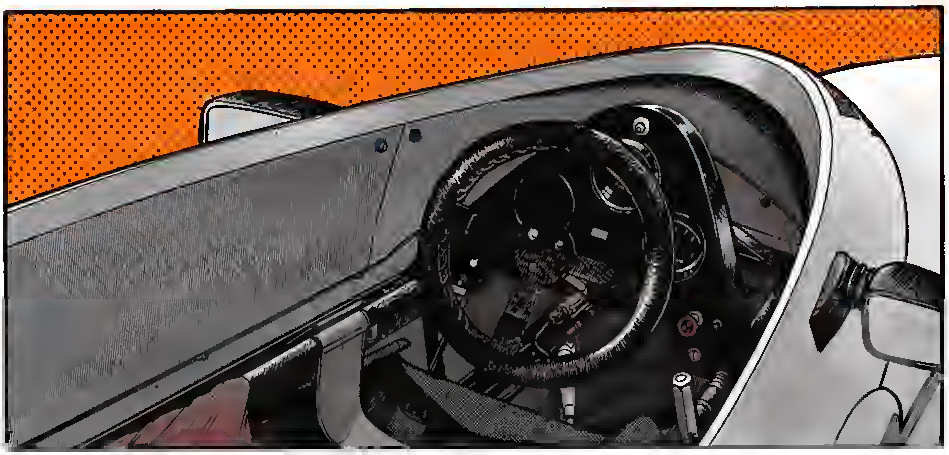
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
SNORE
SNORE
STARE
...
KNOCK
KNOCK
SNORE
He must've been messin' with me.
Sure don't look like the place in the letter...
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

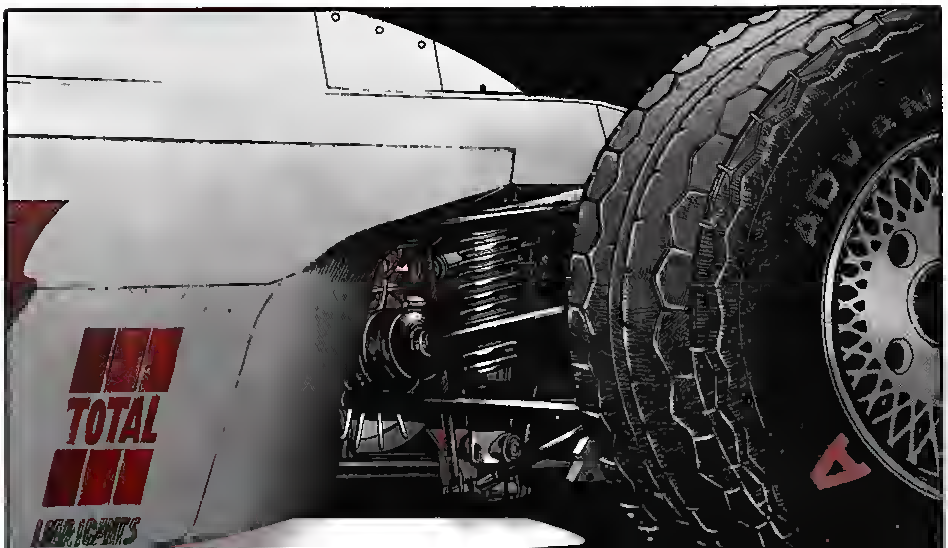
Wake up, Gunma!
You plannin' to sleep all day?
Ugh... Tamotsu...? What are you doing here so early in the morning?
It's already noon... Anyway, follow me.
I've got something you'll wanna see.
Something I wanna see?
DUNLOP
Just get over here!

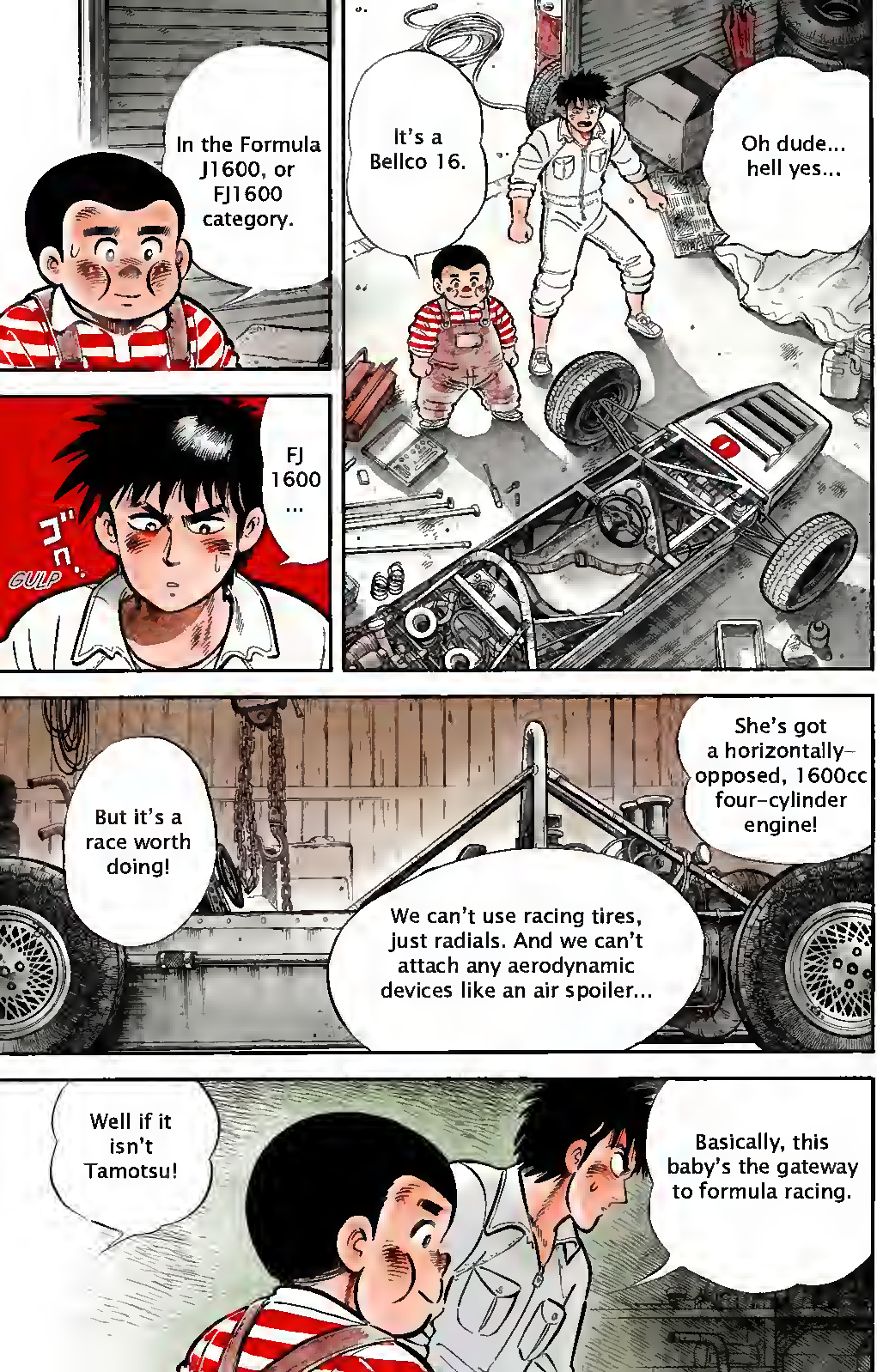
Chapter 10:
Freebooting

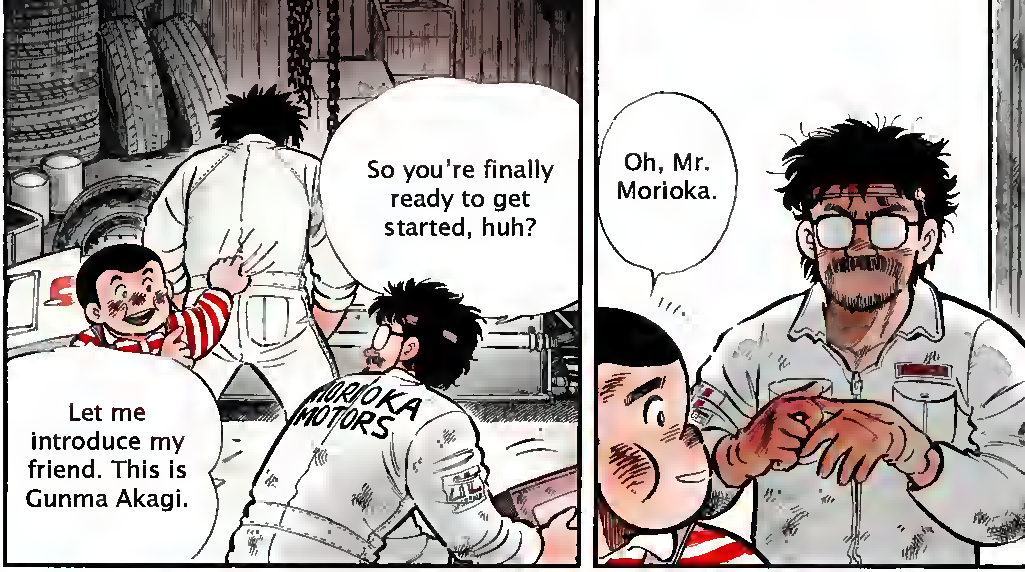


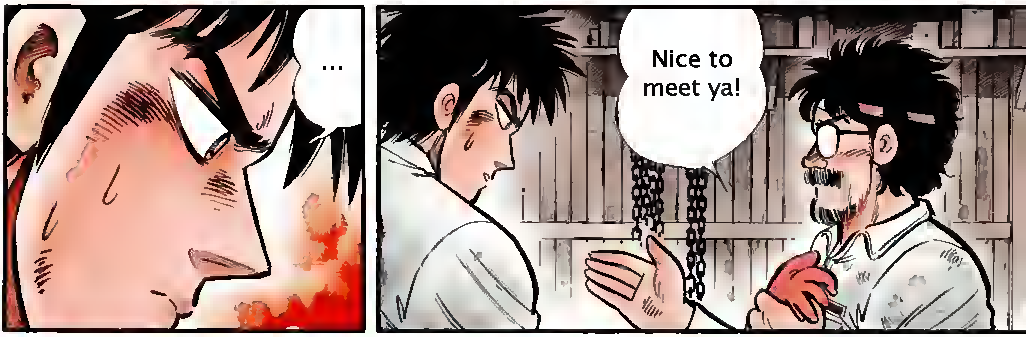


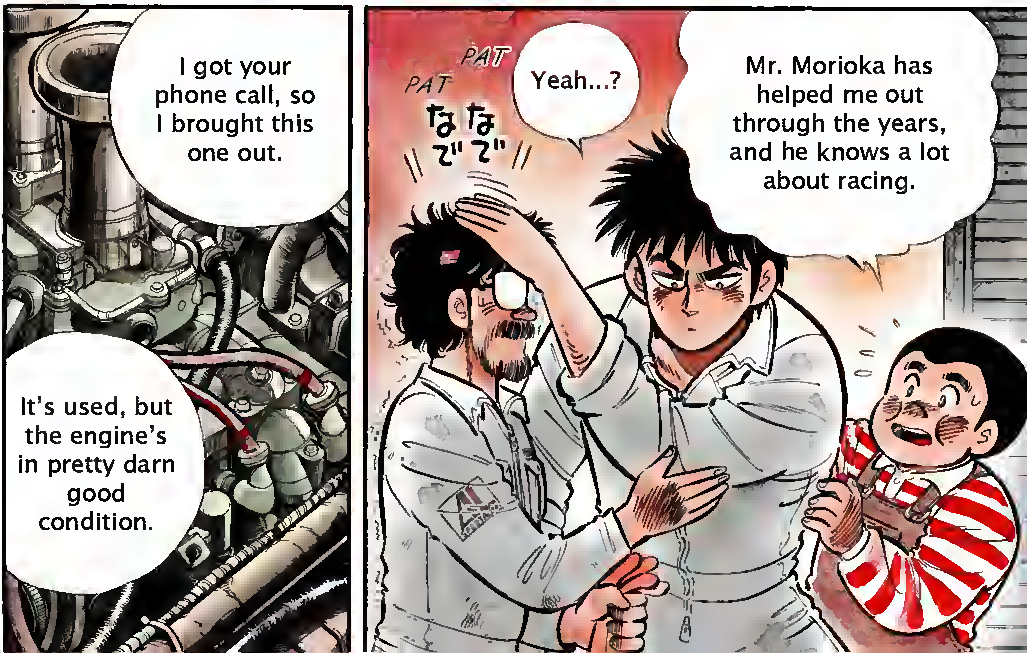



TOTAL


In the Formula J1600, or FJ1600 category.
It's a Bellco 16.
Oh dude... hell yes...
FJ 1600 ...
ゴクッ
GULP
She's got a horizontally-opposed, 1600cc four-cylinder engine!
But it's a race worth doing!
We can't use racing tires, just radials. And we can't attach any aerodynamic devices like an air spoiler...
Well if it isn't Tamotsu!
Basically, this baby's the gateway to formula racing.


So you're finally ready to get started, huh?
Let me introduce my friend. This is Gunma Akagi.
MORIOKA MOTORS
Oh, Mr. Morioka.


...
Nice to meet ya!


I got your phone call, so I brought this one out.
It's used, but the engine's in pretty darn good condition.
PAT
PAT
なな
ご" ご"
Yeah...?
Mr. Morioka has helped me out through the years, and he knows a lot about racing.

Hmm ...
But you've got the skill to work on it, and with the right driver, the sky's the limit.
Normally I wouldn't recommend a used FJ car that costs under a million yen...
...got the look!
This guy's...
Who's gonna drive it?
SHING
Good point.
Ha ha ha...
If only we could win races with "the look"...

Honestly, I've been dreaming about this forever.
...it would be a dream come true.
Hey Gunma... so... I always used to think...
If Momma would let me, you and me, we could team up together, you know...
I mean, I never thought it'd be possible, but...
You're ready to race, Momma's okay with it...
And now it's coming true...
And you've got the funds...
Heh heh... Fell down...
CRAAASH
ガニ ガニ ガニ
You come from a rich family, after all! Even a "bad son" like you can get a whole mountain's worth of cash at the drop of a hat, right?
Funds?

You okay?
Ha ha ha! Fine, just fine!
You know what, though? Let's reserve that race car we looked at! I really like it!
HA HA HA
NUDGE
Sure... There's no rush, though!
Anyway, we're gonna need a lot of money!
I've got some saved up. But first we gotta get back to my room and make some plans...
Are you nuts!? What if someone else buys it first!?
Then we'd just have to buy a new frame kit.
It'll be expensive, but in the long run it's better than a used car for racing.
Either way, we're sittin' on a mountain's worth of cash, so it's not a problem!
Let's think about it.

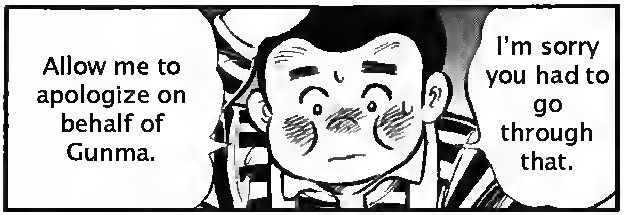
He really thinks I got a bunch of money.
Ta-motsu, you son of a...
SCRATCH SCRATCH
KNOCK KNOCK
Hmph...
I just moved into Room 6. Name's Tamotsu Oishi...
SWISH
?
...
What do you think?
These are shiitake mushrooms from home, and I'd like you to have them as a token of friendship...

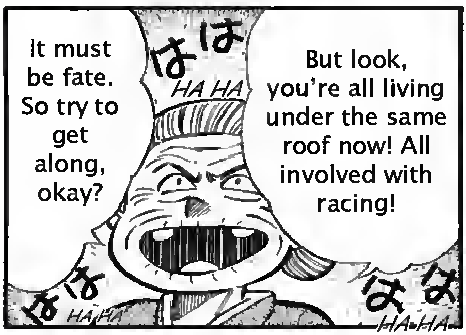
Must be tough having a friend like that.
Really.
Did... some-thing happen?
Y-Yeah, sure...
That Akagi kid who just moved in.
Aren't you friends with... him?
Tamotsu said he's got savings.
Wait a minute ...
If I don't get it fast someone else is gonna buy it.
SCRATCH
That car is a lucky find...
SCRATCH
CREAK
SLAM
Meow...

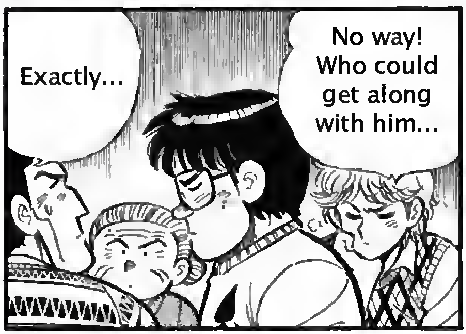
Here we are!
THUMP
SHAKE
CRASH
RUSTLE
SWITISH
...
I can still get to the bank.
Pretty careless, Tamotsu. Keepin' your bank book here!
Oh yeah! A million yen, baby!
How'd he save up this much?
Hmph!
SQUASH
THUD
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
CRASH
SLIP
GASP

So Gunma went nuts at Tsukuba.
Wow...

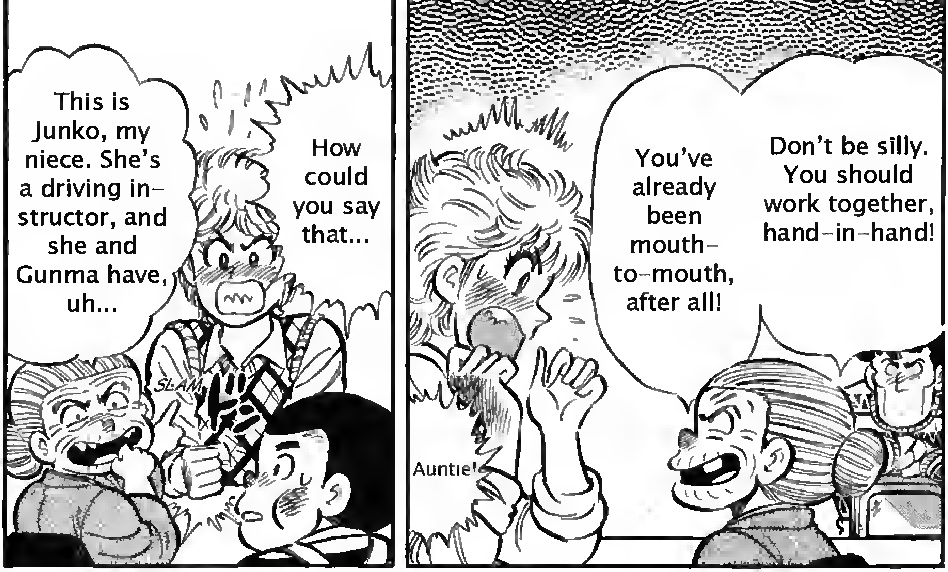
小森荘

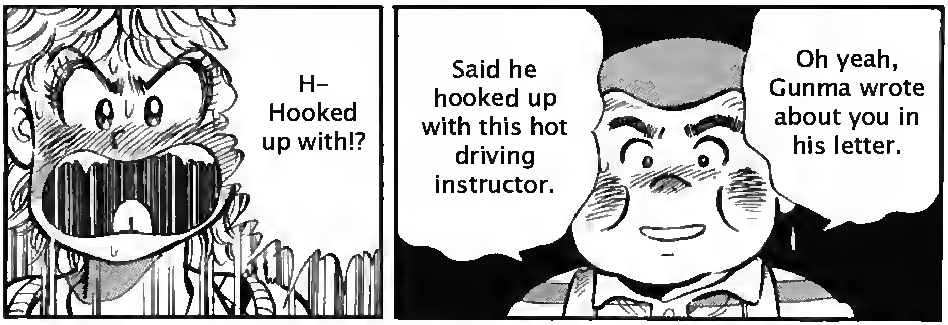

Allow me to apologize on behalf of Gunma.
I'm sorry you had to go through that.


It must be fate. So try to get along, okay?
HA HA
But look, you're all living under the same roof now! All involved with racing!
HA HA

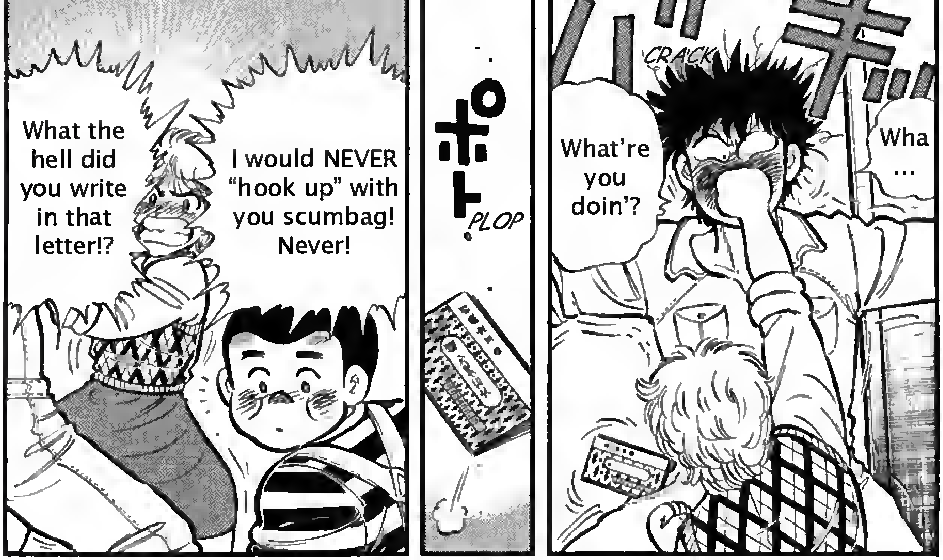

Exactly...
No way! Who could get along with him...

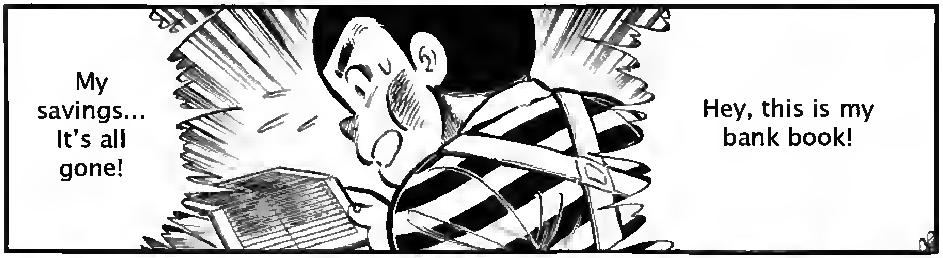
But still...
Now, now. You didn't do anything to apologize for.
That's right. It's all on him.

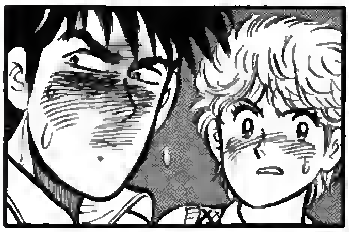

This is Junko, my niece. She's a driving instructor, and she and Gunma have, uh...
How could you say that...
SLAM
Don't be silly. You should work together, hand-in-hand!
You've already been mouth-to-mouth, after all!
Auntie!


H-Hooked up with!?
Said he hooked up with this hot driving instructor.
Oh yeah, Gunma wrote about you in his letter.

カサカサカサ
RUSHH!!
!
I'm back, Granny. And hungry!
カチャ
KACHINK


What the hell did you write in that letter!?
I would NEVER "hook up" with you scumbag! Never!
PLOP
CRACK
What're you doin'?
Wha ...

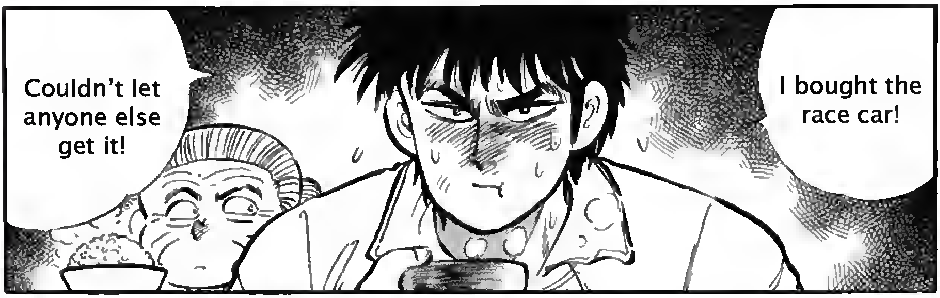

My savings... It's all gone!
Hey, this is my bank book!

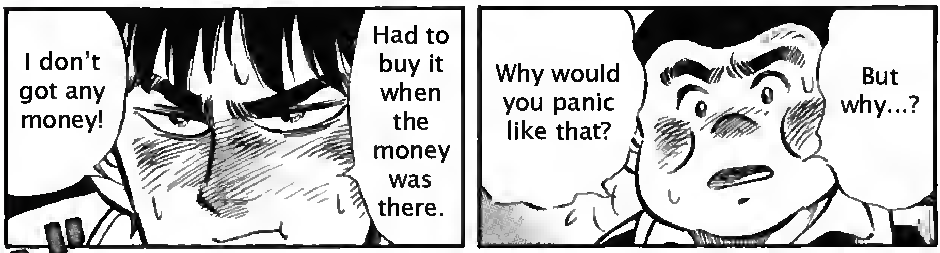


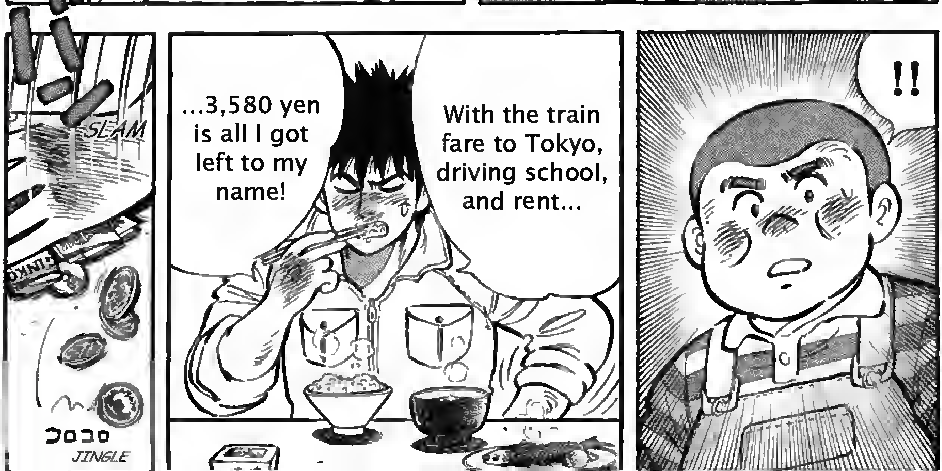
Granny! Dinner!
THUNK

What?

What did you use the money for!?
You just swiped my bank book without asking!?
SLURP
What the hell is this!?
Gunma ...


Couldn't let anyone else get it!
I bought the race car!


I don't got any money!
Had to buy it when the money was there.
Why would you panic like that?
But why...?


SLAM
JINGLE
...3,580 yen is all I got left to my name!
With the train fare to Tokyo, driving school, and rent...
!!

You whipped up a bunch of lies to get me to Tokyo.
Gunma, you tricked me...
...
MUNCH MUNCH
And that your dad gave you a huge chunk of forest land, a whole mountain...
Said this old apartment was a classy condo...
What a joke!
Hooked up with a hot woman...
You told me you aced driving school on the first day...
How can you eat so shamelessly after betraying your own friend!?
What a jerk!
Unbelievable!
What a terrible thing to say! You are a genuine scumbag!
More food, Granny!
It was all a lie!
But I had to do it that way. Otherwise, a coward like you wouldn't have the balls to live out his dream!
Heh heh, so it was...

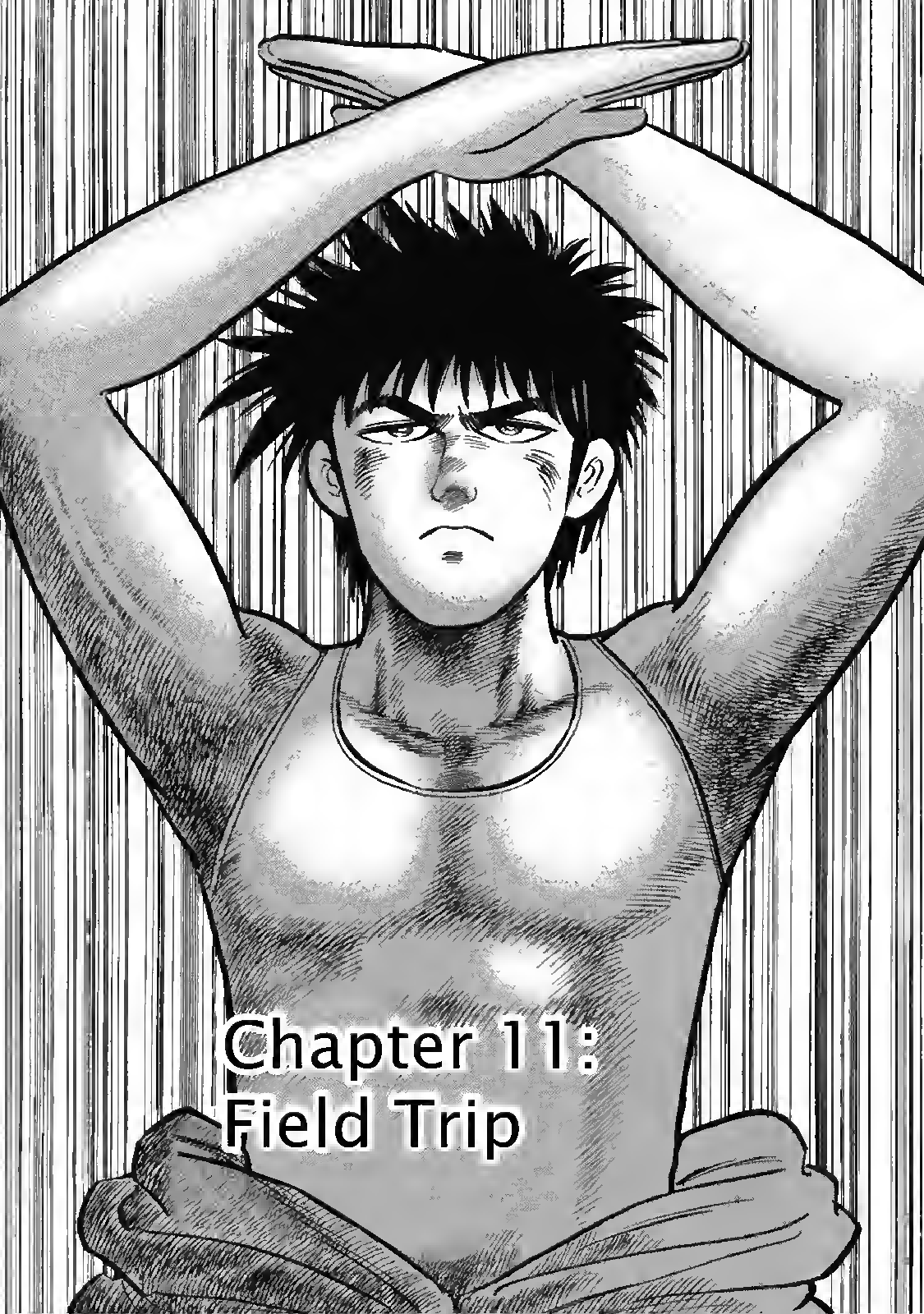
I'm gonna be a race car driver! And no one will stand in my way!
Nobody, and I mean NOBODY, will be able to get in front of me!
Seaweed
SHUT UUUP!
CLATTER
Seaweed

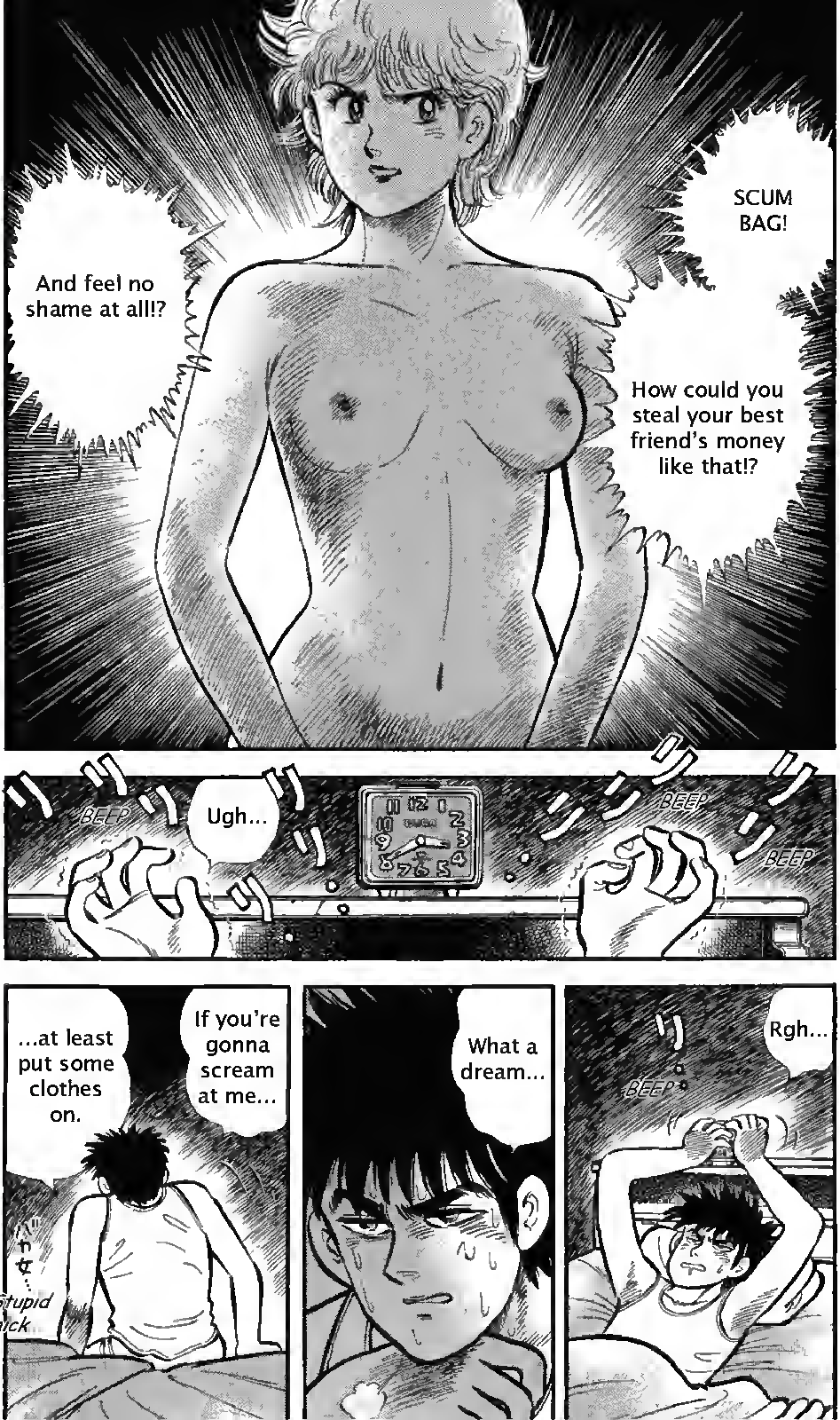
Even if I gotta start from zero, I'm gonna climb to the top!

I ain't spineless like you! Whining about money and your momma and all that!

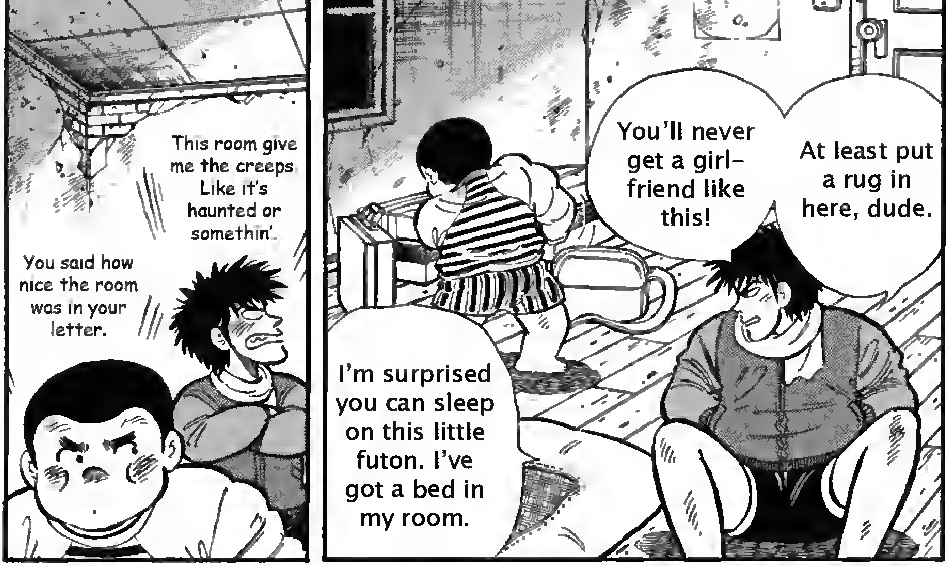
I AM your freakin' money!
Never forget this Tamotsu!
Don't forget you said that.
Sure...
More food, Granny!
Of course I won't forget!
SLAM
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
...

That's just how he's always been.
Of course I knew that letter was a bunch of lies.
It all went surprisingly well.
Just like clock-work...
And my real bank book is safe and sound.
PEEL
That money Gunma used was his own after all. His kid brother Yuma told me to give it to him when I came to Tokyo.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
Now for the real challenge...
It all starts tomorrow.
Now that he owes me, things should get easier... especially with a guy like Gunma!
Ahh ...

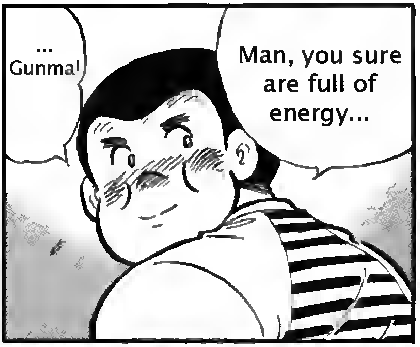

Chapter 11:
Field Trip


SCUM BAG!
How could you steal your best friend's money like that!?
And feel no shame at all!?
BEEP
Ugh...
BEEP
BEEP
Rgh...
BEEP
What a dream...
If you're gonna scream at me...
...at least put some clothes on.
Stupid chick

Gunma...
You sleep awful late for a farm boy!
THUD
THUMP
THUMP
THUD
Tamo-tsu...
Get up, dude.
What are you doing here at this hour?
KACHINK
Your momma would not approve.
I ain't here to rob you!
SNAP
Training, my friend! Early morning training!


This room give me the creeps. Like it's haunted or somethin'.
You said how nice the room was in your letter.
You'll never get a girl-friend like this!
At least put a rug in here, dude.
I'm surprised you can sleep on this little futon. I've got a bed in my room.

You could stub your toe on this!
PEEL

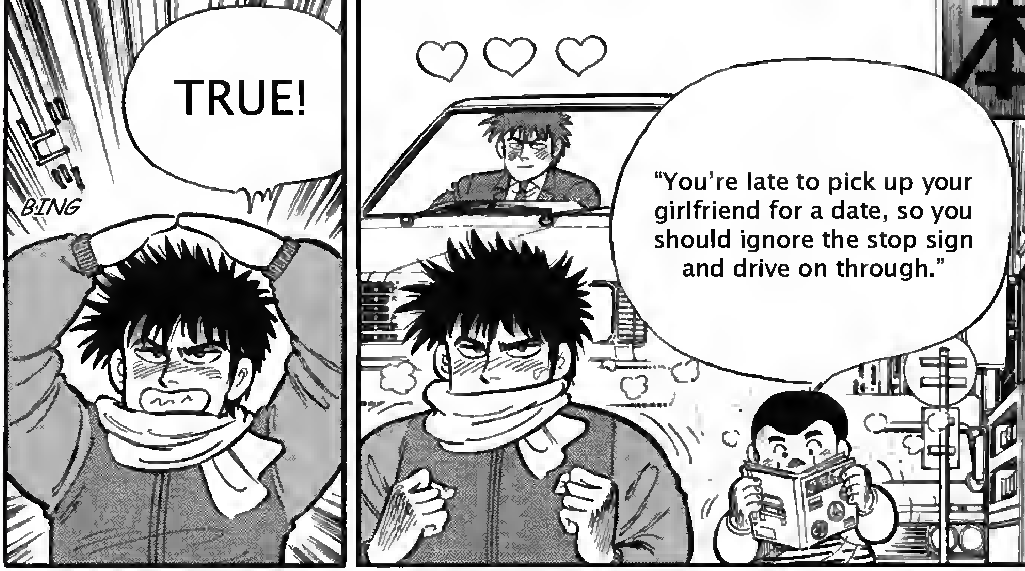

... Gunma!
Man, you sure are full of energy...

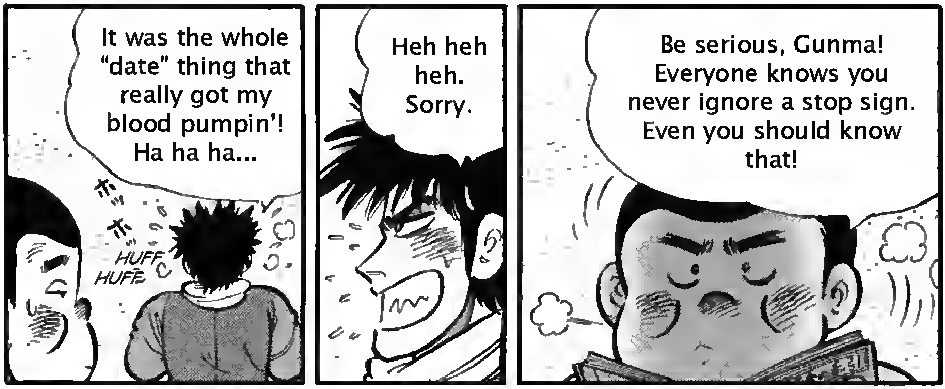
My entire savings...
How could you, Gunma...
Let's go.

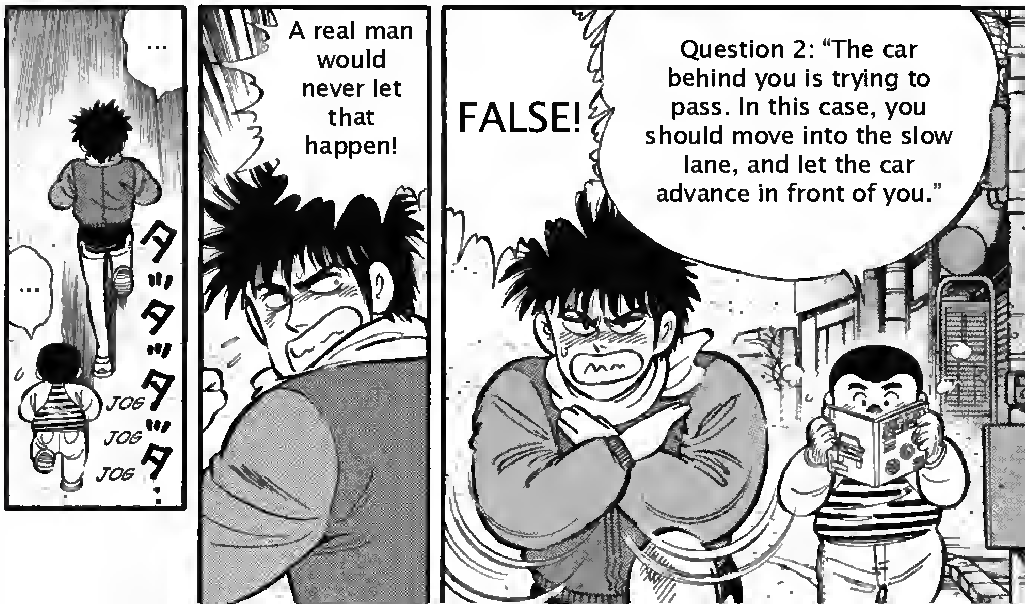
What are you so nervous about? It's like you're hiding something from me!

THUD

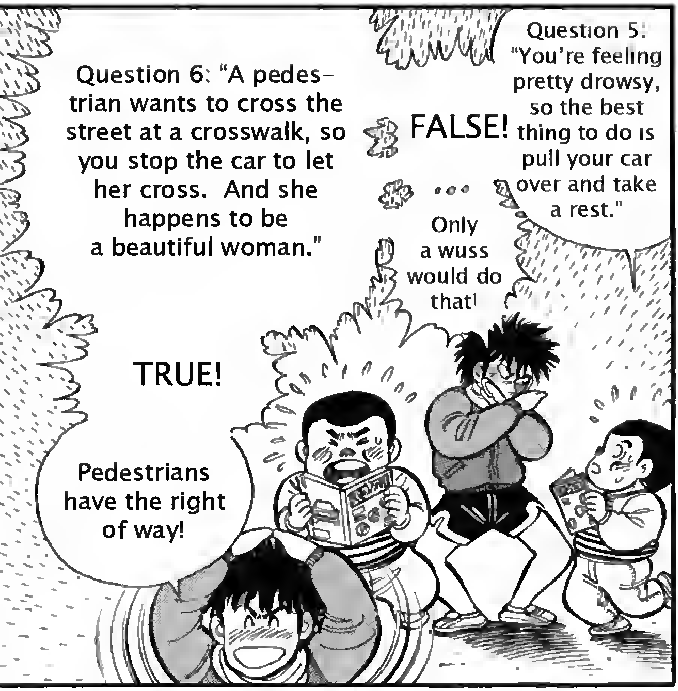
People have to forgive and forget in this world, you know...
JOG
JOG
Right, Ta-motsu?
JOG
JOG
JOG
I wish you'd stop bringing that up, dude!
Huh? What's that?
If you want your driver's license, you gotta pass a written test too, Gunma!
HUFF HUFF
交通法令の手引
Sounds pretty pointless to me.
I'll read off some ques-tions, and you answer
It's a book of traffic laws.
Question 1...
It's probably easy stuff anyway!
Fine, what-ever!


TRUE!
BING
"You're late to pick up your girlfriend for a date, so you should ignore the stop sign and drive on through."


It was the whole "date" thing that really got my blood pumpin'! Ha ha ha...
ポッ ポッ
HUFF HUFF
Heh heh heh. Sorry.
Be serious, Gunma! Everyone knows you never ignore a stop sign. Even you should know that!


...
...
タッタッタ
JOG JOG JOG
A real man would never let that happen!
FALSE!
Question 2: "The car behind you is trying to pass. In this case, you should move into the slow lane, and let the car advance in front of you."

You gotta step on it in a case like that, to get up enough speed for a sweet jump!
FALSE!
Question 3: "You're driving near the top of a steep hill, and you should slow down because you can't see very far ahead."


Question 6: "A pedestrian wants to cross the street at a crosswalk, so you stop the car to let her cross. And she happens to be a beautiful woman."
FALSE!
Question 5: "You're feeling pretty drowsy, so the best thing to do is pull your car over and take a rest."
...
Only a wuss would do that!
TRUE!
Pedestrians have the right of way!

Question 4: "You're at an intersection with no traffic lights. In this case, you feel the best thing to do is yield the right of way."
FALSE!
It ain't good to think too much. I'd go forward!

Nobody, I mean nooobody, gets in front of meee..
...
JOG JOG JOG

What are you so happy about?
Yes! You finally got one right!

He's been banned from the nearest driving school, so maybe it's better for him to go right to the test site.
Ha ha ha... That's impossible, Tamotsu! Even taxi drivers fail their first test!
Hmm, no license, huh...?
If you work for me, that is!
If money's the issue, I can pay you in advance!
But another driving school would be expensive, and...
...
ポ...
Ooh...
I'll give your boy some work too...
Of course I'd love to, but...
I've got a lot of odd jobs.

...
You sure were soft.
Yuki... I wonder what you're up to.
Right... Like that would happen...
Let's get it on, baby...
It'll just be a waste...
How come?
I appreciate your offer, but please forget about the money.

I can't figure it out.
It definitely isn't running right.
Guess we oughta take it to the shop.
Well?
Hmm ...
Hey, you guys don't look too happy about somethin'!
Lemme take a look at it.
What's wrong with it?
Not running well?
Don't touch it!

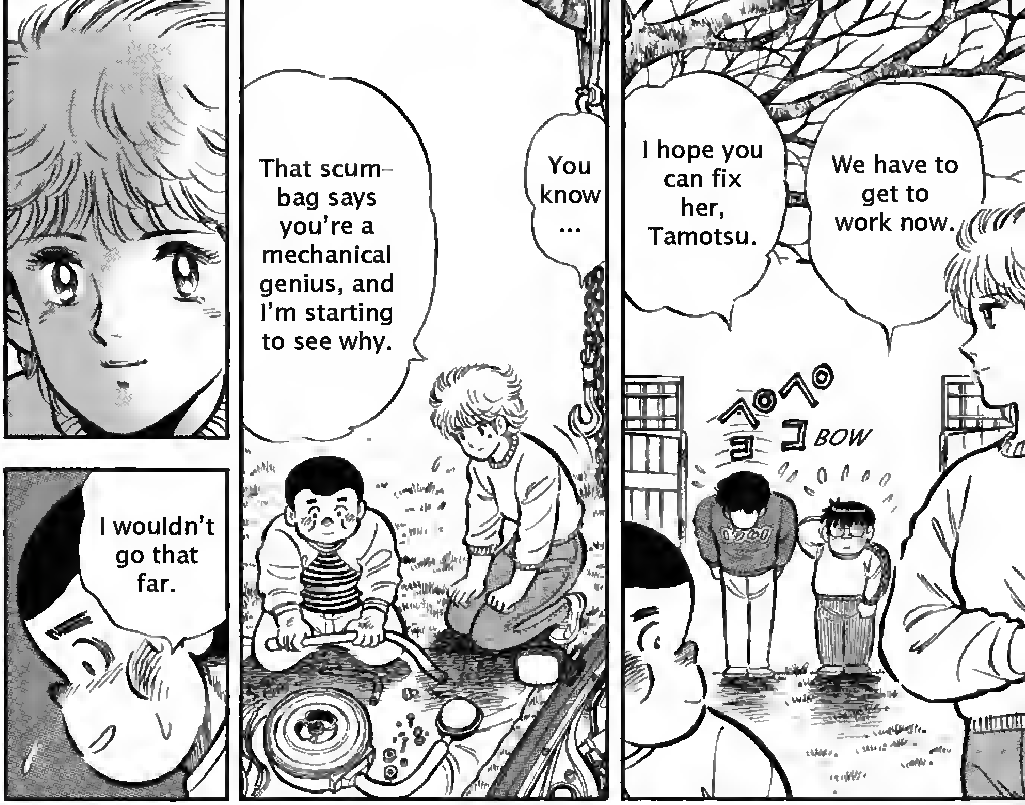
You got a problem, or what?
J94
Hmph...
He doesn't even have a license. What would he know?
TWITCH
I'm a compassionate guy!
But...
It's true I don't got a license.
And I don't know nothin' about mechanics, nor do I care...
Kindness? Yeah right!
If someone's in trouble, it's only natural to show kindness.
But...
This guy's a mechanical genius. He knows all there is to know about cars!
Tamotsu, come take a look at this!

SLAM
Heh heh...
That's him being kind...
Granny! I'm hungry!
Just take a look!
Um, what seems to be the problem?
Yeah.
Thinks he's hot stuff.
I'll take a look if you don't mind.
Don't waste your money.
We'll just take it to the shop.
The engine's not running quite right, but I can't put my finger on the problem.

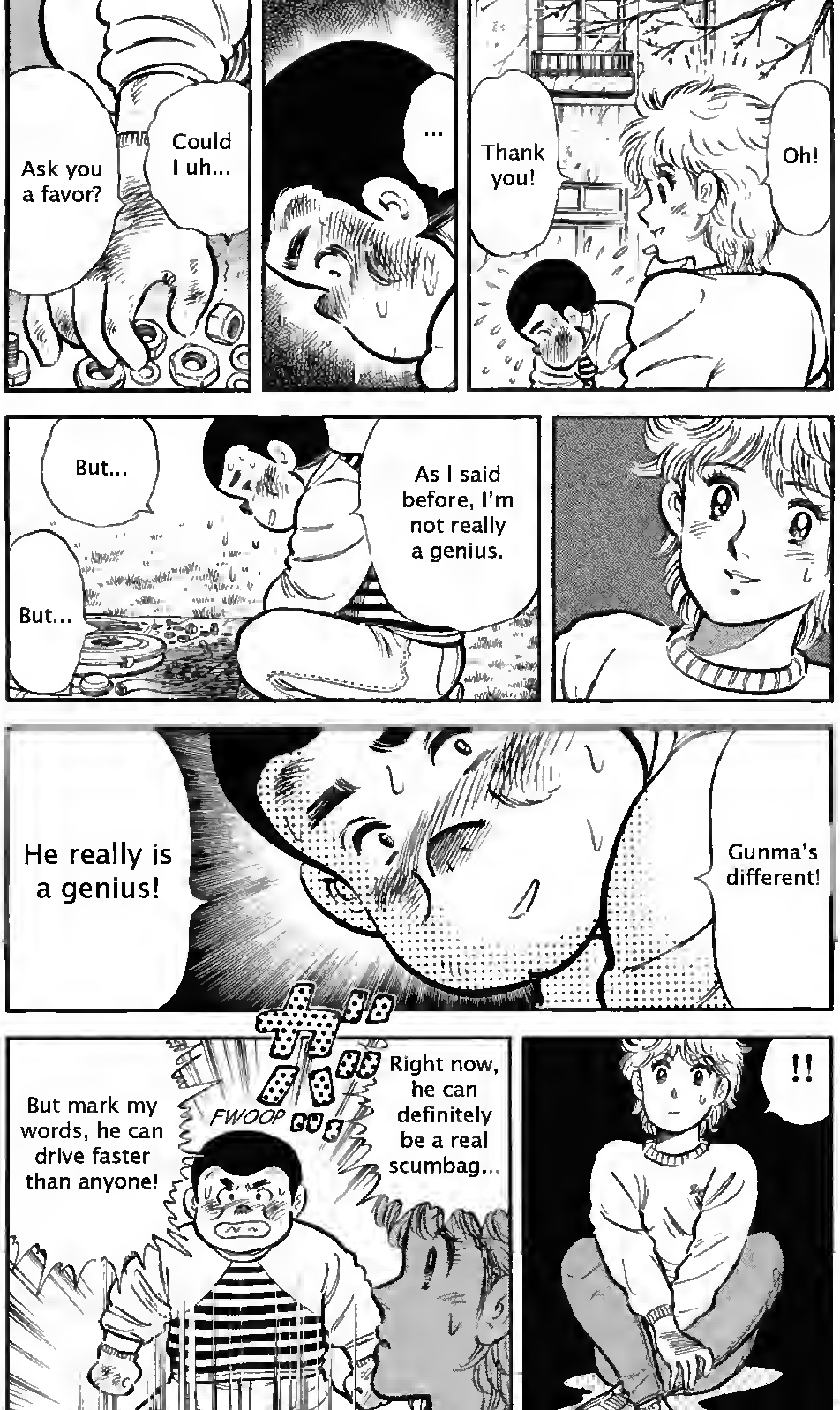
Yeah ...
?
You got a screw-driver?
Probably.
Let's start up the engine.
Can you figure it out?
Sure, start it up!
Ready?
One screw-driver.
TAP
VRRR

There's a fussy kid in the carburetor!
Got it.
PHEW
That's how it sounds to me, at least.
Keep going, you're clear...
VRRRR

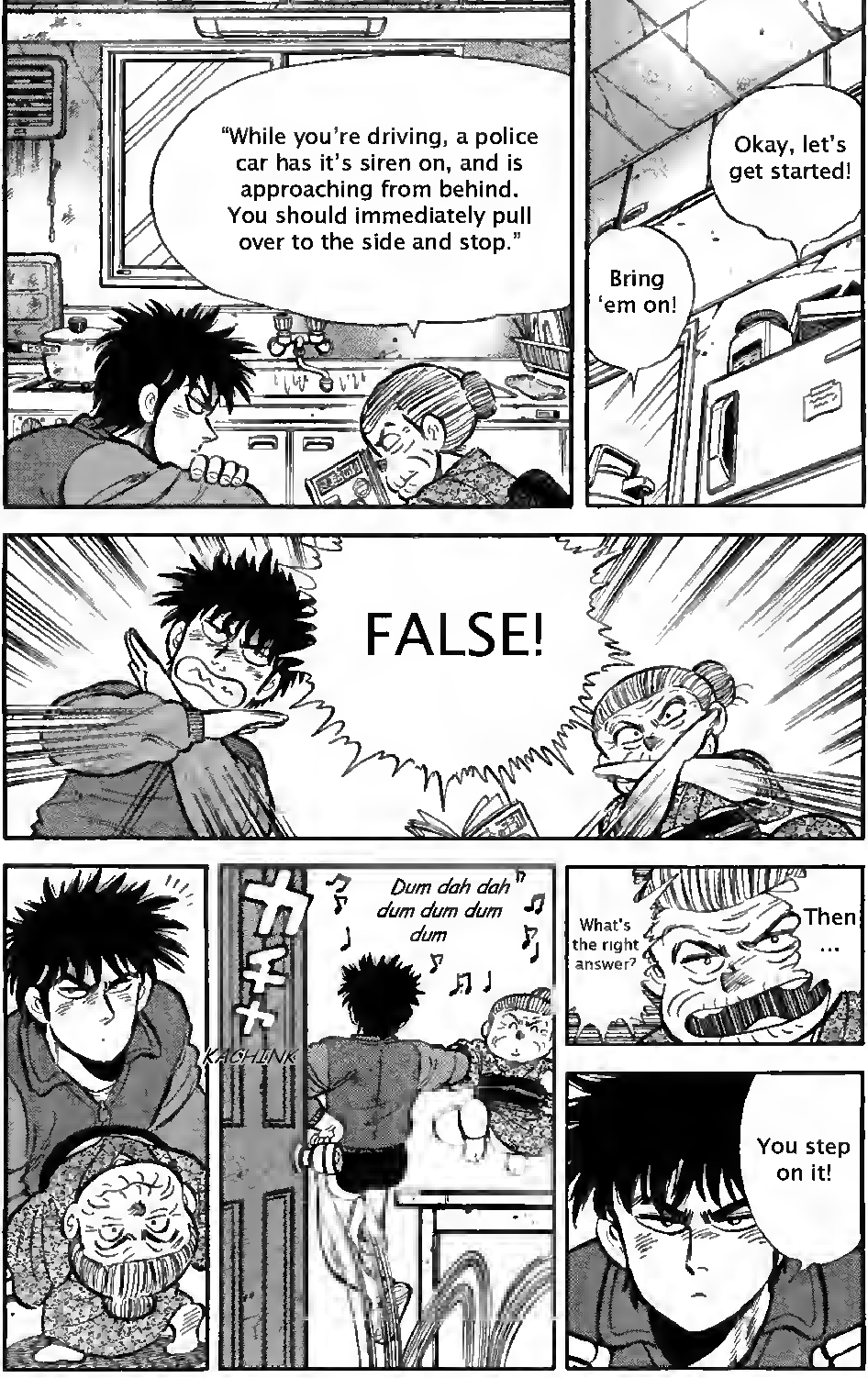
The screw-driver is like a hearing aid.
There's a lot of different ways to check the engine.
Any around the head, or the crank...
First we gotta check for unusual sounds.
Compressed gas is leaking from a cylinder back into the carburetor. This is caused by poor valve adjustment.
In this case, the engine itself's not the problem.
It's the intake system.
It's fine.
Hey, give him a break!
So can you fix it, farm boy?

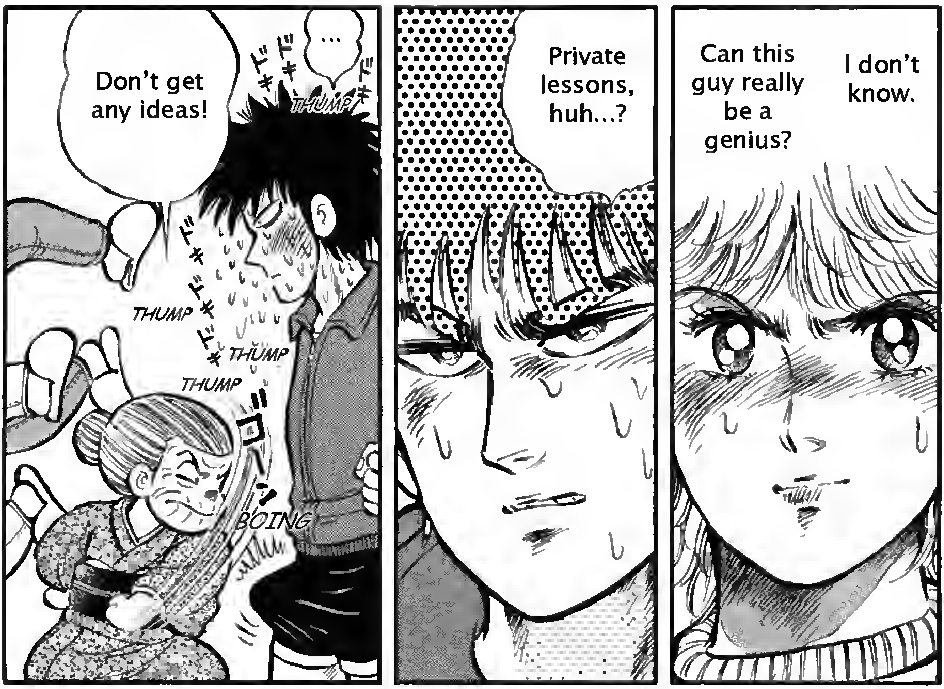

I hope you can fix her, Tamotsu.
We have to get to work now.
BOW
You know ...
That scumbag says you're a mechanical genius, and I'm starting to see why.
I wouldn't go that far.

Still, I see you in a different light now.
It's like you've got 10 or 20 years of experience, but you're still a kid.
...
THUMP
THUMP
Y-You uh...
You're really pretty when you smile.
THUMP
THUMP
Definitely a genius.


Could I uh...
Ask you a favor?
...
Oh!
Thank you!
But...
But...
As I said before, I'm not really a genius.
He really is a genius!
Gunma's different!
But mark my words, he can drive faster than anyone!
FWOOP
Right now, he can definitely be a real scumbag...
!!

Private lessons?
Pr...
Give Gunma private lessons so he can get his driver's license!
Please, Junko!
His only chance is to go straight to the test site!
Since Gunma's the way he is, he'll get thrown out of any driving school in the country!
Give him a chance!
Please, Junko!


"While you're driving, a police car has it's siren on, and is approaching from behind. You should immediately pull over to the side and stop."
Okay, let's get started!
Bring 'em on!
FALSE!
カチャ
KACHLINK
Dum dah dah dum dum dum dum
What's the right answer?
Then ...
You step on it!



"F" Volume 1 THE END

F VOL.1

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